

England's Merry Jester :

CH OR,
Court, City and Country

J E S T S,

New, and Suitable to the Humours
of the Times ;

Witty and Familiar, for the Encrease of
Merriment, and Improvement
of Friendly Conversation!

As they are used among the Wits of the Age.

To which are added, as a *Second Part*,

*Bulls, Banters, Quibbles, Repartees, Plea-
sant Stories, and Poems :*

T H E

*Qualifications of an Expert Town-Wheedle ;
with the Art and Mystery of Wheedling.*

All Profitable, Pleasant, and Delightful.

The like never before Published.

Done by a Lover of Merriment.

The Second Edition.

L O N D O N,

Printed by J. Wilde, for N. Boddington, at
the Golden Ball, in Duck-Lane, 1694.



Reader wee think the Picture is a Jest.
 If not proceed and Mirth attends the rest.
 If you can smile at this there is no doubt.
 For helpe the Book is read you will laugh on.

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England's Great Britain

Count, City and Country

EST

New and Suitable to the Times

Wine and Beer

They are also 164

To which are added



All Probable

The like new

Done by a

Printed by J. ...
the ...

...of the World and ...

To the AUTHOR,
Upon his New *JESTS*, &c.

IF Mirth and Merriment can give Ap-
plause,

In this you carry from the rest the Cause :
O'er Melancholy you a Triumph gain,
And do with little Cost, remove the Pain :
Mirth here springs up, as from its native source ;
Here needs no Doctors Fees, nor Physick's
Course,

To cure the Patient : It's but to peruse
What you have writ, and that that pleases,
choose :

And you will find, whate'er is your Complexion,
Some Balm, or Cordial-Powder, or Confection,
That will restore Mirth to a drooping Mind,
And render Thoughts disturb'd with Grief,
refin'd.

This is not all : It will Discourse improve ;
And in the mid'st of Dullness, Laughter move ;
Furnish the private Wits with Merriment,
And give the publick profess'd Ones content.
It's true, and I must own it, That in *Jests*
Many appear, but this I count the best :

Author, upon his New Jest.

*In this Men such Variety will find,
As cannot miss to please a changing Mind :
Blow hot or cold, your humour here is suited ;
The Wise approv'd, the foolish are confuted :
Converse, by this, is scrutiniz'd, to see
How most Mens Tempers with their Words
agree :*

*For he who from Friends takes a Jest unkind,
When most they want him, will lag last be-
hind.*

*Then be good-natur'd, and for Merriment,
One Hour a Day in reading, think well spent ;
And by consid'ring well what here is writ,
Your self may, one day, set up for a Wit :
For why, we see, the Wits of this Age boast
Their Parts, in Jest and Rhimes, and Ban-
ter, most ;*

*And he that can excell in this, is fam'd,
Tho' some will say, He's but a Wit nick-nam'd.*

~~Life, as well as for pleasure~~

~~and Entertainment and~~

~~Satisfaction to Humane~~

~~Society; it is but reason~~

~~able all that is necessary~~

~~to~~

~~procure and continue it:~~

~~Wherefore, I have thought it~~

~~others I have thought it~~

~~convenient to take the~~

~~Method, seeing this way~~

~~Since Mirth is very~~

~~much conducing to~~

~~the Health of Man-~~

~~kind, and consequently~~

~~to the Prolongation of~~

~~Life,~~

THE

Preface

TO THE

READER.

Since Mirth is very much conducing to the Health of Mankind, and consequently to the Prolongation of

A 3 Life,

The Preface

Life, as well as for pleasant Entertainment and Satisfaction to Humane Society ; it is but reasonable, all Inoffensive Ways should be studied, to procure and continue it : Wherefore, among many others, I have thought it convenient to take this Method, seeing this way it may be had without Toil, and with little Expence of Mony or Time. If Jestings was not approved, as a speedy Antidote

to the Reader.

tidote against Cares and
Anxieties of Mind, I
would fain know why
so many wise Princes in
divers Ages, have been
at the Charge of Main-
taining fit, qualify'd Per-
sons for this very purpose,
who, with their well-
tim'd and seasonable Jest-
ing, have refreshed their
Minds, and render'd them
calm, and serene, which
were before rumpl'd and
toss'd with perplexing
Affairs of State, or other
Anxieties. A 4 But

The Preface

But to come nearer to my purpose; I must let the Reader know, That great care has been taken, to put down nothing that may reasonably give Offence to any understanding Person, or grate the modest Ear; but that they are drawn up smooth and pleasant, the greater part being New, and never before Published, and all of them such as most usually are delivered in Company, to garnish out Discourse,

to the Reader.

Discourse, and keep up
Good-Humour. He must
needs be of a very Mel-
lancholy Temper, that
some or other of these
will not move to Laugh-
ter.

But by the way, let
me tell you, If you
would be taken for a
good Jester, you must
always observe to Time
them well; that coming
pat upon the Discourse,
or hitting the Thing you
leavel at, they may have
more.

The Preface.

more Force, and better Acceptance with the Auditors. Avoid Profane Jestings, by any means; for that cannot be pleasing, but to Profane Persons.

And the better to furnish out this Book, that there may be nothing wanting, I have thought fit to add, as a *Second Part*, several *Bulls, Drolleries, Repartees, Banters, and Pleasant Stories*: With the *Art of Wheedling,*

to the Reader.

*ling, now very much in
Use.*

And so recommending
the Book to your fa-
vourable Censures, I re-
main,

R E A D E R,

Your humble Servant

to Command,

J. S.

England's

to the Reader.

ling, now very much in

And to recommend-
ing the Book to your fa-
vourable Consideration, I re-

R E A D E R,

Your humble Servant

to Command,

J. S.

England's

England's Merry Jester ;

OR,



Court, City and Country

JESTS, &c.

I.

A Gamester having borrowed Ten Pounds, and lost it, sent for Ten more, by the same Token that he had borrowed the like Summ before ; Nay, reply'd his Friend, unwilling to venture further ; you come only by Word of Mouth, and may deceive me : therefore tell him, unless I see the Token, I shall not send him a Farthing.

B

2. A

A drunken Blade reeling out of a Tavern, and on his way home-ward, found his Head so light, that his Heels scorning to carry it any farther, fairly tripped themselves up, and laid him in the Kennel, where he took a pleasant Nap; till the Watch-men coming their Rounds, found him a snooring; and 'waking him, told him, he must Come before the Constable: Gad, tell the Constable, you Puppies you, said he, that he has nothing to do with me, for I belong to the Scavenger.

A Gentleman in a dark night had got a bit of Link of a Tavern-Drawer to light him home, it being so late, that the Link-Boys had left the Streets: but the Flame in a short time coming so near, that it almost made his Fingers suffer Martyrdom, he drew out his Sword, and stuck it on the Point of it; when coming by a Watch-House in that strange posture, the Constable called him before him, and demanded, why he walked the Streets in Terror at such a season, to Alarm and fright People with Fire and
Sword;

Sword; and began to read him a Lecture of the great Mischiefs that had been done by those two mischievous Instruments: To which our Spark reply'd, as he staggered and tottered too and fro, Why, why, Mr. Constable, you are a very strange Man, to talk at this rate; what, won't you allow me a Save-all to my Link? This Conceit so pleased the Constable, that he sent a Watch-man to see him safe home.

4.

Sir *Thomas Moor* in King *Henry* the Eighth's time, was a Man of infinite Jest, who falling into that King's Displeasure, and being to be Beheaded on *Tower-Hill*, said to one that gave him his Hand, I prithee, Good fellow lend me thy Hand to get upon the Scaffold, but as for my coming down I take no heed; and when the Executioner was about to strike the fatal Blow, Hold, Friend, said he, let me put my Beard on one side, for although you have Commission to cut off my Head, you have nothing to do to cut my Beard: for whatever has been pretended, that has

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committed no High-Treason, as being
grown since I came into my Confinement.

Sir *Joceline Piercy*, Brother to the Earl
of *Northumberland*, in Queen *Elizabeth's*
days, being an Airy Spark, and very
Ingenious; observing a Country-woman
had attended in the Lobby of the
Council-Chamber several days, he demanded
her business; who told him, she had a
Petition to deliver, in hopes of the Redress
of a certain Grievance, and could get no body
to deliver it for her. Let me see it then, said he,
and looking upon it, Puh, this will never
do your business, but I will draw up one
instantly that shall prove Effectual: her
Controversie it seems was with the Parson
of *Moortchick*, about stopping a Water-course,
that thereupon overflowed her ground,
and did her much Damage. He wrote her one,
and getting it presented by a Friend,
immediately retir'd. The Woman was
called in, and the Clerk of the Council
order'd to read it; who could not for
time

Court, City and Country Jest. 5

time do it for laughing, till he was checked and commanded to read it, which was in these words,

*The Parson of Moortclack
With two Stone and a Stake,
Stops up my Water Lake,
Help, Lords, for Gods sake.*

Upon this, they allburst out into Laughter, and for the Fancy's sake, made an Order, that the Parson should remove his two Stones and a Stake, and leave the good Woman's Water-course open.

6.

Scoggin in his time, having affronted the Maids of Honour, and other Court Ladies, by throwing out satirical Jest; they upon their Complaint, obtained he should run the Gauntlet, and every one with a Switch have a blow at his naked Back; but before he began his Race, said, I wonder that you should be all thus bent against me, I know many of you to be honourable and virtuous, but by this Tryal it will be known whom I meant; for she that is guilty of

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the Charge I urged, will be sure to strike first: hereupon they stood gazing upon each other, admiring who should be she; each forbearing to begin, till he run quite through them, and escap'd the Punishment design'd.

7.

One time he wanting Money, and meeting a Lord as he was walking musing in the Court, set a good face on't to wheedle him out of a broad Piece, and coming up to him, said, My Lord, I had a strange dream last night, and now half of it is out, for I dreamed I met you here, which now proves so, and that you gave me a broad Piece: Well, said the Lord, then I will make out the other part, and so gave it him; and then said, Alack! I mistook, give it me again, for that is a Piece my Mistress gave me to keep for her sake, which he readily did, in hopes of a better Gratuity. Then said the Lord, I'll now tell you my Dream, that it may be out likewise, viz. I dream'd I gave a Fool Money, and he had not the Wit to keep it: and so he passed on, leaving Scoggin
to

to scratch his Ears and vex at being out-witted.

8.

King *James* the First abhorring Flatterers, and being one day in the Park, where some Noble-Men leap'd before him for a great Wager, he said, Is this all you can do? is it the farthest you can leap? A Parasite who stood at his Elbow, said it was nothing to what his Majesty had done in his younger days; thinking thereby further to ingratiate himself: to which the King reply'd, By my Saul Man, thou liest; for I could never leap so far, by five foot.

9.

The same Monarch upon his Accession to the English Diadem, had several great Presents made him; and a poor Gard'ner hearing that he gave largely to the Presenters, resolv'd to try his Fortune; whereupon he presented him with a Turnep of a vast bigness, and he considering the Man's poverty, order'd him a Hundred Pounds. A person who

had a very fine Horse, for which he was offer'd 120 broad Pieces; being inform'd of this, thought to himself, that if the King gave so much for the Presentation of so small a Value, he should not miss of trebble the Summ: and accordingly made a Present of his Horse, which the King liked exceeding well; but having private Intimation of the Parties Expectations, he frustrated them, by only ordering the Hundred pound Turnep should be given him to make his best on't: which Frustration caus'd him to go away, scratching his Ears,

10.

A Person having been notorious for Quarrelling, wounding divers, and at last killing a Man, Intercession was made for his Pardon, which this King granted: but such Clemency not being sufficient warning, he killed another; and when the like Suit was made, the King reply'd, Nay by my Saul Man, it was not he, but I that killed this Man; for if he had been hanged before, this party had been alive; therefore he shall dye for making me unwittingly guilty
of

of Murther, and accordingly he was Executed.

II.

The King being upon a Country Progress, and at an Inn, after Dinner went privately from his Attendance, whilst they were in the height of their Jollity, and coming to the Stable, found the Hostler sweating in currying down the Horses; to whom he said, Good Fellow, what News do you hear in these parts? what Discourse have they of the King? Why truly Sir, reply'd he, nothing to the purpose, but that he makes a great many poor Knights. Upon this, the King retir'd, and ordered him to be sent for; the Fellow being conscious of what he had said, trembled at the consequence, but go he must, and coming into the Presence, he was ordered to kneel, which with some unwillingness he did: Then the King drawing out his Sword, which he supposed was for no other Intent, then to cut off his Head, cryed out for Mercy, and begged his Pardon; but was a little comforted, when the Royal Voice bid him

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Rise up Sir Roger Clodpate Knight; telling
him his Report was now verifi'd, for he
had made one poor Knight; and so dis-
missed him to occupy his former Em-
ployment of rubbing down the Horses
Heels.

12.
This King seperated from his Com-
pany in hunting a Stag; went to a mean
Cottage, on the edge of a Forrest;
where he found an old Woman seething
Pottage, and being keen in Appetite,
desired some of them, which she pre-
sented him; but being none of the
cleanliest, and having unusual Herbs in
them, caused in him an extraordinary
Belly ach, of which he complaining,
she immediately fetched a Bullet, de-
siring him to swallow it as a present Re-
medy; when straining to get it down,
she cry'd, O Sir, you have a very nar-
row Throat, I have swallow'd it a hun-
dred times upon the like occasion, and
never found any difficulty in it.

Archee the King's Jester, when *Arch-Bishop Land* bore a great Sway in King *Charles* the First's time, being asked his Opinion of a Set of Coach-horses that were presented to the King; said, they should be Ecclesiasticks, come from the pampering of good Benefices, by their Fatness, but were too unweildy for Service; making in his Comparisons Reflection on the Arch-Bishop: which he highly resenting, caused search to be made for him, to c^o him to be punished; but he could not be found, till some of his Friends prevailed with the King to make his Peace: And where then, said he, do you think all this while I have hid my self? We know not, reply'd they; Why, said *Archee*, I'll tell you; even in the Chappel-Pulpit; for I knew his Grace never wou'd come there to look for me.

A down-right Country Farmer coming to bring this great Prelate Rent for
some

some Tenures he held of him, and having never before been in the presence of any but a Justice or the Mayor of a Corporation, accosted him, with May it please your Worship, at the same time giving a scrape with his Hob-nail Shoes, but was jogged by the Servants behind him, and order'd to say Grace instead of Worship; What, said he, must I say Grace where there's no Meat? But if it be the fashion here, 'tis an odd one; then lifting up his Hands, he said, *The Eyes of all things, &c.* and so went on, to the Admiration of the Bishop, who took him to be distracted; till he found he had done it by Misunderstanding.

King Charles the First, riding a Progress, and coming to a Country Knight's House, who though proud of the King's Visit, yet his Coffers could not reach to a very sumptuous Entertainment for so great a Train; but having very fine Orchards and Gardens, it being Fruit time of year, what wanted in Fish, Fowl, Sweet-meats, &c. was supplied by the
Tables.

Tables being loaded with Pears, Apples, Plumbs, Nuts, &c. insomuch, that the King said, What means this? we shall ruin the Country: which a blunt Country Fellow who waited hearing, and thinking to put a fine Gloss upon the matter, replied, Your Majesty need not fear that, for we have so many, that we are forced to give them to the Hogs: which pretty Complement set the whole Company in a Laughter.

Hugh Peters, the Bell-weather Holder-forth, who was a kind of a Buffoon Jeaster to *Oliver Cromwell*, Preaching at *White-Hall* before him, began to commend the Officers for their Courage and Bravery, telling how they had been Advanced, what Favours they had received from the Protector; but here's particularly one amongst you that has been as deserving as the best of you; a Man that has had Experience of Hemp in his Calling; for some say he's a Shoe-maker, others, that he's but a Cöbler; but let him be which of these he will, his Name is *Hewson*, and here sits asleep under the

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the Pulpit. This Banter upon the cobling Colonel made such a tittering among those that sat next to him, that he awak'd, and thinking all was done, was about to go out ; which *Peters* perceiving, said, Nay, Colonel, since you have had such a large Nap, you are by this time sober enough to take 'tother Glass ; and turning up his Pulpit-glass, went on with another Hour's Harrangue, much to the like edifying purpose.

17.

The French Ambassadour residing at Court, in the Reign of King *Charles* the Second, to boast the Greatness and Success of his Master, went vauntingly about, shewing a Distich he had made ;

*Una dies Lotheros Burgundos Hebdomas
ma,*

Una domat Battavos Luna quid Annus agit.

This proud Insult displeasing the witty Lord *Rochester*, since dead, he was resolved to put upon the Monsieur, and looking over his shoulder, turn'd them thus into English.

Lorra'in

Lorrain he stole ; by Fraud he got Burgundy,
Holland he bought ; but Faith, he'll pay for't
one day.

Upon this, the French-man made his Complaint to the King, but to no purpose ; the King telling him, he was a person that would have his Humours of that kind, do what he could.

This Noble-Man being very early in St. James's Park, walking and musing for new Crotchets of Poesie, met the King, with his Brother, and the Duke of Lauderdale, walking from White-Hall to St. James's ; the King seeing him, said, How now, Rochester ? what makes you so early here ? I warrant you have some new-minted Fancies in your Head ? Come, let us hear one of them ; the Earl excused it, as not convenient ; but the King pressing it, promising he would not be angry whatever it was, he thus descanted on them :

For

For Maiden-Head-Bargains; your Majesty's
best,

The Duke for his Valour and breaking a
Fest;

And Lauderdale, that is so wondrous
pretty,

By his Politicks, gains the Applause of the
City.

O my Conscience, says the King, he
has Satyr'd upon us all: well, go thy
ways, thou art an Arch Wag, and so
they parted.

19.

King Charles the Second was a very
merciful Prince to Offenders, and ex-
tended his Clemency to a great many
that were condemn'd; the condemn'd
Roll one day being presented to him by
the Recorder of London, to know his
Pleasure, who should Suffer; several
Courtiers being present, interceded some
for one, and some for another; whom
he crossed out, till there was but one left;
then he asked who spoke for him, but
none answering, O my Conscience, says
the

Court, City and Country Jest. 17

the King, this is a poor Fellow, and wants Mony, I'll stand his Friend; and struck him out.

20.

When the great Heat of Petitioning was one Foot, a Petition among others was Delivered by — which being read, King *Charles* looking upon those that brought it, said, very familiarly to them; Well, Neighbours, I cannot but wonder you should trouble your selves about my Business, however, we'll defer it for this time; and tell the rest of my Neighbours, when I come to *Windsor*, I'll discourse it further with them over a Pot of Ale, and so dismissed them; smiling at the Answer they were to return to the rest of the Subscribers.

21.

A Woman who was adapted to somewhat of the Frailty of her Sex, being brought to bed of a Boy, her Husband sitting by the Bed-side, was consulting who should be Gossips, and amongst others, he named a person who was by some

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some suspected to have a hand in the pye ; saying, he knew he would stand : whereat lifting up her Hands, she reply'd, O the Father ! that you should think of him.

22.

A plump Country Lass being in a *London* Service, her Master wheedled her to his Embraces, so that after repeated Dalliances, she proved with Kid, and one day there being a Pig for Dinner, she happening to Long for the Ears, eat them ; as knowing, if they came to the Table, they would not fall to her share, and therefore made sure work before-hand ; the Mistress however missing them, made Enquiry, and being told the naked Truth by the simple Girl, demanded how she came to be in that condition ? Why truly and indeed forsooth, reply'd she, by my Master's help ; the Woman then wishfully looking upon her Husband, who sat by, said, Is this true ? Yes indeed, reply'd he, I believe it may, And when was it done, said she ? Why truly Sweet-heart, when you were sick last : Ah ! reply'd she, with a Sigh, and was

was I so sick, can a Woman be so sick,
that her Husband must needs go astray?

O unkind Man——

23.

A Woman in the Country being in
Labour, divers were called, and amongst
the rest, an old Woman ; but it being
a cold Night, she neglected to rise till
day light, and then hasted to the house,
and had notice the Woman was safely de-
livered; when stumbling at an old Cradle,
where a sick Pig was wrapped up in a
piss-burn'd Blanket ; she, for want of her
Spectacles, mistaking it for a Child, fell
to kissing and flabbering it ; crying, O
pretty Babe, it is as like its own Father
as if it had been spit out of his Mouth.

24.

A Country Lass having been at Lon-
don, in a Service, and had gotten tolle-
rable good Rigging upon her ; coming
down again, had a great many brave
Kinsfolks came to visit her, amongst
the rest a Widow-woman's Son fell in
Love with her ; but stumbling home
from his Courtship, his Mother asked
him

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him whether at the parting he had kissed Mrs. *Mary* or not? No, indeed forsooth, said he, I forgot it; then reply'd she, I charge you, Boy, upon my Blessing, go back and do it; lest you be thought unmannerly, and disgrace our Family: Away thereupon trudged Hobnail; but the Door being lock'd, she refused to let him in, it being very late, but proffer'd him the Favour he desir'd through the Casement; and finding him a simple Fellow, instead of her Face, presented him her Breech, which he very amorously smuggled, and giving a scrape, went away very thankfully; and told his Mother at his Return, that now he liked Mrs. *Mary* better and better; because he was sure she was a good Housewife: How know you that, said the old Woman? well enough, reply'd he, For she had been late up a spinning, and had Toe in her Mouth when he kiss'd her.

25.

A witty young Man in the Country, having a Love for a Rich Farmer's Daughter, and she the like for him; but

but he being poor, the Farmer would by no means consent to the Marriage, which put the Spark upon a Stratagem, viz. going abroad with his Mistress one Evening in the Fields, he pulled out his Knife, and cut a round hole in the ground, desiring her to make Water in it, which she modestly refused, till he entreated it again; urging, they should both reap the Fruits of their Desires by it; she had no sooner done this, but he fell to be labouring the place with his stick, and so concealing the conceit, went home with her, and then with a kind Kiss parted and went to an Ale-house, where his Companions began to pity his Disappointment: No matter, said he, let who will have her, I'm sure I have pay'd her pissing-hole sufficiently. This being taken in the worst Sense, soon came to the Ears of the Father and Mother, who, with open cries fell to reproaching their Daughter as a wicked naughty Wretch, to defile her self, and stain her Family. The Maid remembering what had passed, took the Hint, and improved it; saying, if any such thing had happened, it was their Faults, in hindring her from marrying.

tying with a Man she so well loved :
 O you young Whore then! said the
 Old Man, do you confess it? Come
 Wife, continu'd he, let's send for the
 Rogue, and marry them, before it be
 noised any further ; and accordingly by
 this Trick the Lovers obtained their
 Desires with the consent of all parties,
 which no Entreaties before could pro-
 cure.

A super annuated Chamber-Maid
 perceiving the Midwife to be so well
 pay'd, and have a great deal of Mo-
 neys at her Mistresse's Christenings, re-
 solved to study that Art, and having
 got some Notions out of Books, decla-
 red her self a Proficient ; giving warn-
 ing, and resolving to set up for a Mother
 Midnight: her Mistress being a witty
 Woman, smiled at this, and to improve
 the Frolick, told her, she highly ap-
 proved of her Undertaking, and doubt-
 ed not her Skill ; adding, she should try
 her first practice on a young Cousin of
 hers, who was to come from London to lye
 in at her house in a few days: for this
 pro-

promise she returned her Mistress many Thanks, and prepared her self with Necessaries. In the mean while the Mistress and some Gentlewomen whom she had acquainted with the Intreague, procured a smock-fac'd beardless Youth, who, dressed in Womans cloaths, came as from London, and passed for the expected Cousin, with a Cushion underneath for a great Belly: Throws were pretended, and the new Midwife called, who immediately fell to grabbling, and catching hold of his Label of Mortality, fell a tugging at it, as supposing it part of the Child, crying Now all hands to help, for I'll assure you 'tis Labour, for here is one Leg in the World already; at which they all bursted out into a Laughter, till their sides ak'd, and Mother Midnight finding her Mistake, left not only her Service for shame, but forswore the Practice for ever, seeing she had been so fooled at the first Bout.

27.

A Country Lass coming up to Town
in a Pack-horse to seek her Fortune,
had

had the good luck to be hired as a Servant to an an old Rich Mercer, who was a Batchelour, and pleased him so well, that at last he married her ; her Brother, and the top of her own Kindred, who was a down-right honest Plough-man, hearing of his Sister's promotion, threw by his Paddle-staff, put on his Holy-day cloaths, took up his Quarters Wages, and up to London he came ; and knowing the Streets by the Direction of a Letter, though not the House, enquir'd from Door to Door for his Sister *Joan*, who had lately married her Master, till at last he was so lucky to find the right, where he was highly welcomed, and being at Dinner, the old Mercer said, Well, Brother-in-Law, as I now must call you, I am glad to see you, or any of my Wife's Relations she has been a good Servant to me, and I hope she'll make as good a Wife ; we have a plentiful Estate, and all I wish is a Child to inherit it, which yet we have no hopes of : at this *Dick* looking wishfully upon Madam his Sister, bluntly said, How now *Joan*, what art thou turned a barren Sow in London ? thou wast not wont to be so in the Country

and though she frown'd, beckon'd, and made dumb signs for him to hold his Peace, yet he went on : And well, Brother, (*continu'd he*) as for an Heir, you need not trouble your self, for she has a thumping Boy in the Country, got by *Will. Debs*, her Master's Thrasher; and the Parish would be glad to be discharg'd of it. At this, the Old Man star'd, and Madam went blushing from the Table, that a Fool's Bolt so unwittingly shot; had ruined her Reputation.

28.

A Woman having a Crof-grain'd Husband, hard to please; she desir'd him to write down what she should do, and what she should not do, that she might not err in her Performance: this was done, and she well observed her Rules; when one day going a mile or two to visit a Friend, the good Man got light-headed, and on his Return home, reeled into a Ditch, calling to his Wife to help him out: Indeed Husband (*said she*) I remember no such Article in my Orders, but I'll go home

26 England's merry Jester; Or,
and see; and if there be, I'll come and
help you, or else you must get out as
well as you can, for I am resolv'd not
to break them.

29.

An unmarried Gentlewoman desirous to have her Picture drawn, sent for a Limner, and gave him Directions to draw it at Large, in full Proportion, but to represent a Virgin: he having drawn the Face to her Content, drew the Drapery and other Parts at home; but, when she saw it, she was disgusted, because it was not of Stature and Proportion to her Body: O Madam, (*said he*) I lessened it on purpose; for had it been so Large, none would have believed it could have represented the Picture of a Virgin in this early Age.

30.

A Girl about Ten Years old, had got a trick of confidently staring in Mens Faces when they were talking; for which her Mother reprov'd her, saying; Daughter, our Sex enjoyns us
Modesty,

Modesty, and you ought to be bashful, and look downward when you are in Mens Company, and not to stand gazing and gaping as if you were looking Babies in their Eyes : to which the pert Girl reply'd, This Lecture forsooth, should have been read in the former ignorant Ages, but every Age grows wiser and wiser ; that Maids of this Age know better : Men indeed, may look down on the primitive Dust, from whence they were taken, but Man being our Original, I will stare in their Faces, say what you can to the contrary.

31.

A wealthy Citizen, and once a Man of great Authority, considering how Time improves Understanding, was heard to say, that every Age grew wiser and wiser, than that which preceded it; for (*continu'd he*) thus I prove it; My Father was wiser than my Grand-father, I am wiser than my Father, and my Daughter is wiser than us all three.

C 2

32. A

A Widower, whose former Wife had lead an unquiet Life, by reason of his Insufficiency, came a courting to a brisk Lass, who thereupon refused; but her Mother chid her, saying, She was a Fool to refuse such an Offer, seeing he's very Rich, and would maintain her very bravely : Ay, but Mother, (*reply'd she,*) If we should chance to fall out, what shall we do for a Peacemaker to reconcile us ? In troth, let who will take him, I had rather go in my Hair-Lace and Slippers with a Cock of the Game, than to ruffle in Silks, to be trod by a Capon.

A Country Squire of a home-spun breeding, Courted a brisk Girl, Daughter to a Rich Farmer, who by her Father's Consent, was persuaded to marry him, he having a pretty good Estate; and accordingly the day was appointed : but one day espying a Marchion on which the old Man used to ride

Market, and for her easie going was much esteemed, which he desired into the Bargain; but being refused, flung away in a Huff, and told him, he might then keep his Daughter: the Girl was mighty glad of this Rupture, but soon after repenting his Folly, he came again, when none but she was at home; but she made as if she knew him not, Why, this is strange (*said he*) that you should so soon forget me; why, I am such a one, O, I cry you mercy Sir! (*reply'd she*) You are the Gentleman that came a wooing to my Father's Gray Mare; why truly, your Mistress is grazing in the Orchard; you may go and make your Addresses to her, if you please. This Repartee so dashed him out of Countenance, that he never had the face to speak to her afterward.

34.

A Woman having often upbraided her Husband for following Whores; he came one night, expecting a Juniper-Lecture, having a Gut filled with Ox Blood, tyed at both ends, in his Breeches, he missed not his Expectation; for she

presently began to open at him in the old Dialogue : Well Wife (*says he*) since this breeds our difference, I'll ease you of your Jealousie, by removing the Cause of it ; and so in a furious manner, pulling out his Knife, cut the Gut, and threw it in the fire : the Woman seeing the Blood, and thinking he had destroyed her Play-fellow, run screaming out, crying for help, for that her Husband had murther'd himself, and a great many Women coming in, found him on the Floor in a counterfeit Swoon : an old Woman among the rest, undertook to search the Wound, and sadly assured them, it was too true, for his Guts were all in his Breeches : O then said the Wife, I had rather he had cut his Head off.

A Company of Roaring Blades coming into a House, called for Wenches, but there happened to be but one at that time in waiting; at which they began to bluster ; *saiyng*, What a Pox, have you no more Whores, Landlord ? No Sirs, (*reply'd he*) not at present, but by
and

and by I shall ; and in the mean time if you please, I'll send you up my own Wife.

36.

Two Country Fellows going by Saint Pauls, as it is now Magnificent in building, says one to the other, (who stood with his Mouth at half Cock,) look you here Robin, here's a great House, Iſe warrant it coſt Vorty Shillings building. Ay, reply'd the other, Vorty and Vorty to that. Nay, hold you there Robin, not too many Vorties ; for my Vather had a Barn built for Vifty Shilling.

37.

A Merry Wench perceiving a Fellow with a Torn pair of Breeches ſit ſtraddling, and his Whim-wham hanging out, ſaid, Prithee Harry what's all this? Why, only my Purſe and Pack-thread : Say you ſo ; (*ſaid ſhe*) why then my Purſe being cut, Prithee lend me your Pack-thread to mend it.

Two Gentlemen travelling, and spying at a Brook in a Field, by the way-side, a bounding Country Lass, with her Coats trussed up to the middle of her Thighs, bucking her Cloaths; says one to the other, let us put upon this Wench. I'll venture a Bottle, says his Companion, she answers you. Done, says the other: Then Sweet-heart (*says he*) what ails your Thighs to look so red? O Sir, (*reply'd she*) I carry fire in mine Arse, and want your Nose for a Bucket to take up water to quench it: Upon this unexpected Repartee, he durst not make a second Attack, but yielded his Wager lost.

A Parson over-seeing the mending of a Causey before his Door, a Noble-man riding by, thought to joak upon him, saying, Well Doctor, I see you are mending the way; but it seems it is not the way to Heaven: No, my Lord, (*reply'd he*) if it were so, I should look upon

upon it as a great wonder to see your Lordship come this way.

40.

A Country Fellow mounted between two Dorsers in *Bartholomew* Fair, late gaping at the jugling Tricks of the *Jack Puddings*, whilst four arch Fellows shouldering up his Pack-saddle, ungirthed it, and drew his Horse from under him, which they carryed into a neighbouring Inn : the Fellow all this while looking stedfastly up to the Scaffold ; whilst being weary with supporting him, they slip'd aside, and let him fall squalch to the ground : whilst this amazed him, and made him stare about, one came with a snip of Horse-hair in his Hand, saying, he saw the Horse sink into the ground, and catching by his Tail, tho' he could not hold him, had plucked off that Hair : The Fellow took it for Conjurati^on, and on his Knees besought them to restore his Kessel ; but nothing would do, till he had deposited all the Mony he had taken at Market for his Butter and Eggs.

41.

One having stoln an Alarum Watch, stiffly denyed it before the Justice, so that upon the slender Evidence, he was discharged; but before he got out of the Hall, the Alarum went, and he was thereupon ordered to be brought back again; at which he cryed out, O what hard luck have I! that I, could so easily baffle both Justice and Constable, and yet am trappan'd by the Watch.

42.

A Droyer driving some Sheep through a narrow passage where the Trap-door of a Cellar was open; a black Ram fell in, and it being night, the rest were driven on, without it being miss'd: The Boy being sent down for Drink, and seeing a black thing, with shining Eyes, came running up in a manner breathless crying out, the Devil was in the Cellar; the Master going down to see, came up more affrighted; whereupon a Parson a little fuster'd, being in the House, undertook to Exorcise the supposed Demon, as most proper to his Function; and so with his Book and his Candle went down. The Ram no sooner heard him

him make a great noise, but he came running full drive at him; the Parson starting at this unexpected Assault, and throwing his Arms abroad, one of his Sleeves caught hold on a Tenter-hook, whereupon in the Fright, thinking he had been in Belzebub's Paws, throwing away his Book and Candle, cryed out with a lamentable Voice, Help! help! he has me, he has me: which so frightened those above, that instead of coming to his Assistance, they all run out of Doors, and left him to shift for himself.

An ordinary Shentleman of *Wales* travelling to *London* to seek his Fortune, and being put to hard shifts, borrowed a Silver Tankard at an Inn where he lay, which being found upon him, he was Tryed at the *Old-Baily*, and there burnt in the Hand; which narrow escape of hanging, made him haste back again to the Mountains: upon his return, one of his Country-men enquired of his Adventures; O (*said he*) amongst other rare Things, hur met with the

36 England's merry Jester; Or,
the cunningest Fortune-tellers imaginable, who looking on her, told her, whether her should live or die, and that hur might the better remember what they said, it was writ with an Iron Pen in hur Hand.

44.

Another Welsh-man who had been whipp'd at the Carts-arse, and his Companion hang'd; upon his Return, being demanded what was become of the latter, (*reply'd hur*) was pravelly marry'd. Are you sure on't, (*said they?*) Yes, Plutter-a-nails was hur, for hur very well remember, hur danc'd such a Shigg at her Wedding, as hur never danc'd in all hur life before.

45.

Teague an Irish-man, being Servant to an English Gentleman, his Master going to the Bowling-Green, and forgetting a pair of Bowls he had caused to be made for his own playing, sent *Teague* to fetch them; who mistaking him, went unto the next Close to fetch
the

the Bull, but he would not come without the Cows, so he brought them altogether, and drove them into the Green. Sirrah, (says his Master) what's the meaning of this? where are my Bowls? Why, Dear Joy (*reply'd he*) here is thy Bull; but upon my Shoul, I cou'd not get the damn'd Bitch to come without his Moder and Sisters, and dat be de Reason I stay'd so long, hoping thou wilt not be angry. The simplicity of the Fellow, put them all presently into a fit of Laughter, and induced his Master to forgive him.

46.

Remember, (says a Gentleman to Irish Donnel) that you mind me to write a Letter, and send you to morrow morning to such a place; Yes, Dear Joy, (*reply'd he*) and so getting up the next morning, away he trudged Three Miles, without speaking to his Master; being come to the House, the Porter asked him his business, or what he come for. By my Shoul Joy, (*said he*) I cannot tell; Why, who sent you, (says the other,) Why, my Master bid me bring a Letter,

Letter. Where is it ? (says the other) - I cannot tell (said the Irish-man) Who did write it ? In good troth I cannot tell ; (*contin'd he*) for I came away before he was up : The Man seeing him block-headish, resolved to put a Trick upon him, and thereupon ordered one of his Servants to go to a Wasp's Nest, and catch about forty of them in a Box : this done, he told him he knew what his Master designed to send him for, *viz.* was a Box of Silk-Worms, but he must put them in his Breaches to keep them warm, or they would die ; he did it accordingly, but had not gone far on his way, but the box opened, and out came Monsieur Yellow Jackets, fixing their Launces in his Thighs and Buttocks ; which made him caper, run and roar like one possessed with a Fury.

47.

Another Gentleman having one of this Nation to his Footman, as wise as the rest ; order'd him to step over the way to such a Tavern, and ask if he were there : the Fellow very ignorantly went, and returning, says his Master,

ster, Am, I there or no? No, be my
Shoul Joy, they say dee be not there,
but thou wilt be there by and by.

48.

Two bouncing Lasses washing them-
selves at a Spring in an Orchard, it
happen'd whilst they were merry and
dashing one another; a Fellow that
came to steal some Fruit, lay snug in
a Tree, whose Boughs hung over the
Water, but peeping out of Curiosity
too low, his hold slipp'd, and souze he
fell in, crying out, miserably he should
be drowned: the naked Lasses frighted
hereat, left their Cloaths behind them,
and fled amain. The old Man their
Father, was just shutting the Door as
they came to it; but they rushing in,
beat him down backwards, and running
up stairs, covered themselves in the Bed.
The Old Man thus overthrown, lay
sprawling and crying out Thieves, and
Murder; when the Neighbours com-
ing in to demand the cause of his Ex-
clamation, O! (*said he*) there are
Thieves in my House, desperate Rus-
sians, all in Buff, with black Bandileers
under

40 England's merry Jester ; Or,
under their Waists, are run up stairs :
This startled them at first, but the truth
being known, turned their Fear into
Laughter.

49.

A Priest visiting a Party that was
sick, and without hope of Recovery,
proceeded to comfort him, saying, If
he dyed, he need not fear to be car-
ried to Heaven on Angels Wings : That
will do well (*reply'd he*) with a faint
Voice, for I am so weakned with my
Sickness, I shall never get there on
foot.

50.

A Gentleman sending his Irish Ser-
vant into the Mew, to see whether his
Hawks had Cast, and he seeing one
that had got his Hood off, playing with
the other, and somtimes laying hold of his
Head; he run in, and assured his Master,
that one of them were about to Cast :
How do you know that ? says his Master
Why, by *St. Patrick's* Shoe-buckle, there
be

be the great shign of it, for the other Hawk is holding his Forehead.

51.

A Country Yeoman marrying a Farmer's Buxom Daughter, but she having a greater Kindness for another, had promis'd him her Maiden-head; and whil'st all were in the height of Merriment, they two retir'd into a back Milk-house, and there the Promise was made good; but before the Sport was well ended, her Mother came in, and discovering what had passed, fell a ratling her extreamly, whil'st her Gallant sneaked away. The Bridegroom hearing the noise, came and desired to know what the matter was? O Son! says the old Woman, the Baggage has just now crack'd a Pipkin that has been kept without a Flaw these Nineteen Years: O Law! (*says Clodpate*) who cou'd not reach the meaning on't; is that all? Pray don't be angry, and here is a Groat to buy another.

A Woman who had a drunken Husband, hinking to reclaim him by Affrightment, put him once into a Coffin, and laid him in a Vault, where being dead drunk, he slept all Night; the next morning she knock'd so loud at the door of the Vault, that he awaking, asked who was there? One (*said she*) that is come to bring Meat to the Dead; If you had brought Drink (*reply'd he*) you had been welcome, but for Meat, I have no occasion for, and therefore may carry it back again. O miserable Woman that I am! (*said the Wife*), what a hard Fortune is mine, to have a Husband that will be drunk even in his Grave.

A Brisk Lass having married a Taylor, carried him to see her Friends in the Country, where some Wenchs giggling, and being heard to say, *Margery* has married a Taylor, good lord! what (*said she*) replying sharply, wou'd you

you have had me a marryed an Angel?

54.

An old Knight, who a long time had a Female Help-mate, called a House-keeper; who had so well tickled his Fancy, that when he dyed, he left her his Coach and Horses, and Five Hundred a Year: in requital of which Extraordinary Benificence, she Erected him a Monument, where among other Things, his Figure lay along at Large, and hers was placed kneeling at its Feet with a Book, as if Reading: An Arch Wag seeing this, who was no stranger to their Intreagues, writ under it with a piece of Charcole, viz.

*Though good Sir Harry wou'd not Marry,
He lov'd the Pleasure out of measure:
When he liv'd, and had his Feeling,
She was Lying, he was Kneeling,
But now he's Dead, and past his Feeling,
He is Lying, she is Kneeling.*

A Gentlewoman, who in her Life-time was of but light Fame, and so Lustful, that she labour'd to Sue out a Divorce against her Husband for Insufficiency; but dyed before it could be obtained: whereupon laying a Stone over her, he caused these Lines to be Cut on it.

*She's dead, who living, no Man e're cou'd
please,*

*No natural Engine her hot Lust could ease ;
But now behold the Wonders Death can do,
One Stone sufficeth her, we plainly shew,
Who in her Life-time wan't content with
Two.*

A Weaver's Wife in Spittle-Fields, upon the Death of her Husband, ordered a Mason to lay a Stone on his Grave, and being desirous to have some Words upon it, knew not what ; at last it came into her Head, viz. *Here lyeth the Body of John Ball, Weaver of Spittle-Fields :*
And

And what more? says the Mason, who was a Thick-skull'd Fellow at Invention. That's all, says the Woman; upon this, he thinking she meant the last Words for a Rhime, set it down in this manner.

*Here lyeth the Body of John Ball,
Weaver of Spittle-Fields,—That's all.*

57.

In another place, a Man having been very troublesome to his Neighbours, they were all glad when he died, yet in Remembrance of him, clubb'd for a Stone, upon which were Engraved these Lines.

*Here lies the Body of John Dry,
Ho! ho! do's he so? and there let him lie;
If you disturb him he will have a Claw,
His very Ghost with you will go to Law.*

58.

A Country Fellow, who had never seen a Coach before, observing one come rattling along with a Gentlewoman in it;

46 England's merry Jester ; Or,
it ; demanded of one that came riding
behind, what that Trundling-House
was call'd ? who reply'd, a Coach : Ve-
ry fine, reply'd the Countryman : And
who is that Gay Woman in it ? Why
the Queen of Hearts, said the other ;
In troth (*reply'd he*) I thought so, be-
cause the Knave of Clubs was so close at
her heels ; for they are always shuffled
together.

59.

A Mountebank riding along the Road,
saw a great Croud in another Road a
little distant, and sent his Man to see
what the matter was ; who came ri-
ding back in great hast and Consterna-
tion, crying out before he came at him,
O Master ! fly, fly, for your Life ; What
ails the the Fool ? what's the matter ? said
our Doctor ? O Sir ! said his Man, there's
a Fellow a going to be hanged for kil-
ling a Man, and you have killed forty
to my knowledge in your time, with
your Pills and Potions.

60.

A swinging stomach'd Fellow, being set to a large piece of Roast-Beef, cut sometimes at one end, and sometimes at another; the Mistress of the House entreated him to cut fair, and not spoil the fashion of the Meat: Don't you take care no care for that; (*reply'd he*) it matters not where I cut, for I do intend to make both ends and the middle meet, before I go; and he proved as good as his word; for he eat it all up, to the Admiration of all the Beholders,

61.

Counsellour *Marriot* the great Eater, bargaining with a Man that knew him not, to fill his Belly with Gammon of Bacon for a Shilling he presently devoured one Gammon; at which the Man began to grumble, saying, He had put it into his Breeches, or convey'd it out at the Window, for he was confident, no Man could ever eat it; it weigh'd (*said he*) Nine Pound and half: Puh, thou art a fil-

48 England's merry Jester ; Or,
a silly Fellow, (*says Marriot*) and dost
not understand what belongs to eating :
I'll wager you the price of both, I eat
another. Done, said the Cook, and fetch-
ed another ; standing by till he had eat
above half, and was going on to the
rest ; then he snatched it away, saying,
Certainly thou art the Devil ; for none
but the Devil cou'd devour at such a
rate : and so without taking a penny of
his Money, entreated him to be pack-
ing.

62.

Henry the Eighth, designing to War
against *France*, ordered a Rough Mes-
sage of Defiance to be carried to the
French King, which was so grating, that
the Messenger doubted of his Life if he
delivered it : saying, The French King
would undoubtedly take his Head off.
reply'd old *Harry* sternly, If he dares to
do it, I will revenge the Affront, in
taking off the Heads of a Thousand of
his Subjects : But alas ! Sir, said the o-
ther, what good will that do me,
when I have lost mine ? for I do not
believe any of theirs will fit my Shoul-
ders.

63. A

17 and (you should not say) you
 M. you shall 63: and upon it
 will you be a Man, as I am as I am

A Lady having a Lap-Dog, that she was very fond of; one day the Maid hapen'd to beat him for a naughty Trick, and my Lady hearing his Cry, came running to his Rescue; demanded what he had done? and began to chide her rough usage of her beloved Whelp. Madam, (*says the Wench*) he deserves this Correction, and worse; if you knew all, you'd say so: Why, what has he done? tell me quickly, Nothing, Madam, but you having carelessly left your Dressing-Box open, he has very unmannerly untrussed a Point amongst your Ladyship's Paints and Perfumes.

64

A Taylor's and a Baker's Boy meeting together, Come, says the first, let us go and crack-a Pot, we shall ne'er want Money at our Trades, as long as there are Backs and Bellies, and our Masters have chalk'd out a way to Pinch and Steal for our Expences. I know not what Tricks your Master has shewed
 A D D you,

50 England's merry Jester ; Or,
you, (says the Baker's Boy) but I'll
take it upon me to say, that my Ma-
ster is as honest a Man, as ever liv'd
by Bread.

65.

A Person seeing a Fray in the street,
and being Pot-valiant, wou'd needs
thrust himself into it ; got a shrew'd
crack'd Crown, which oblig'd him to
send for a Surgeon ; who being long
at Probing ; he asked him what he was
doing ? Why searching (said the other)
For what ? (said the Patient) To see
if your Brains were not hurt, (says the
Surgeon.) Truly Sir, (reply'd he) you
may spare that labour, for if I had had
any Brains, I had escaped this Mischiefe,
by being wise enough to keep out of
a Fray, wherein I had no Concern-
ment.

66.

A Man coming to a Painter to draw
him a Fear upon a Sign-board, and be-
ing to be brought to but a very indiffe-
rent Price ; (says the Painter) the
Chair

Chain and Collar must be Leaf-Gold, and that is dear: Puh (says the Man) I care not a Pin whether there be any Chain or Collar. So drawn it was at his price, but with such slight Colours, that the next great Rain washed it off. The Alehouse-Man hereupon sent for the Painter, and reproached him for a Cheat; O (says he) did I not tell you that by all means, you should have had a Collar and a Chain; but being left loose, has e'en run away, and all that I can say to the matter is, you must find him where you can.

67.

A Scotch-man intending to set up a Two penny-Chop-Ordinary, went to a Carvers, and bargain'd with him to Carve him a Bare Head for his Sign, and he taking him for a Barber or Perriwig-maker, Carved him one accordingly: but seeing it, disliked it; (saying) Upon my Saul Man, in geud faith this is not the Bare Head I meant; No (says the Carver) what then? Why, a Bare Head of the Sows Husband who has little Grices and Gruntlins follow-

52 England's merry Jester; Or,

ing her, crying a-week, a-week. O
now I understand you, (says the Car-
ver) you mean a Boars Head, Yes, by
Saint *Andrew* do I; (said *Jockey*) and
so they agreed.

68.

In Popish Times, when the Holy
Rood was set up; a Country Carver
had made such an ugly Image, that it
stood like a Bug-bear to fright the Chil-
dren from Church, so that the People
would not contribute to pay him; he
thereupon warned them before the
Mayor of the Town; who told them,
'twas reason the Man should be pay'd
for his Labour, and if they lik'd it not
for a God, they might make a Devil
of it.

69.

A Fellow being sharply reprov'd by
his Neighbour's Wife, for consorting
with Lewd Women: Why, what would
you have me to do (says he) I am a
Batchelour and resolve not to marry
yet if I could have an opportunity to
kill

kiss an honest Woman when I had an occasion, it would wean me : Hark you then (*said she*) whispering in his Ear, my Husband won't come home to night, and I'll leave the back Door open for you, you know the way to my Bed.

70.

A Woman having a drunken Husband, who when she scolded at him, used to beat her when he came home in that pickle ; whereupon she went to a Doctor to know what would cure him of that boisterousness ; who by her Discourse, perceiving that her Tongue occasion'd her hard Usage, told her, he would give her a Water, which if she held in her Mouth when she let him in, and till he was in bed, he should have no power to beat her. The silly Woman put it in practice, and whilst her Mouth was so fill'd, she could not use her Clacker, and so escap'd many a bang'd sides : Mr. Doctor got a Crown a week of her, till one of her Gossips diving into the Mystery ; told her, she might as well save the Charge, and hold her

54 England's merry Jester ; Or,
Tongue without it, and consequently
be secure from beating.

71.

A Country-man being sent by a Gentleman to his Son with some Moneys, who was a Student in the Temple, and finding a Note in the Key-hole, viz. *I am gone to the Devil*, he started, and his Hair stood an end, and for a while knew not what to think or say ; till supposing himself near the Confines of Hell, and that he might be fetched to accompany him : he thunder'd down stairs, took Horse, whipping and spurring without having the Courage to look behind him, till he came home, and there with abrupt stammerings, delivered the supposed dreadful News of his young Master's fatal Disaster testified under his own Hand : but when the Truth of the business came out, it proved to be only the Devil Tavern, where he was recreating himself with some Friends.

72. A

For as much as you have been a while in the
 Court, City and Country Jest. 72.

A Country Lawyer being in years, yet, upon a second Marriage, taking a brisk young Wife, she made many dumb signs to inveigle his Clerk to her Embraces; who, for a while, did not, or would not understand them: but growing gamefome, she persecuted him so at last, that by tickling, and other Lovetricks, he could not write in his Desk for her. Whereupon, he made a mark with Chalk, about two yards distance, upon the floor, telling her, That if she came over it, he would lay her down and ruffle her to some purpose. Will you so, (*said she,*) I'll venture that. Upon which, seeing but too plainly what she wou'd be at, he took her in his arms, and threw her upon the bed: where, as to what they did, we drew the curtain. A little Boy, that cou'd but just speak, saw this passage; and the Lawyer coming home, and about to step over the chalk, he catch'd hold of him, crying, Oh, Father! Father! if you step over the chalk the Clerk will take you and throw you on the bed, and then lye upon you a

great while, as he did upon my Mother. By this we see, Children and Fools tell truth.

73.

A Woman, playing not only false with her Husband, but with her Gallant, admitted more to her Embraces: so that one coming suddenly, before she cou'd dismiss the other, she made the first get upon the Bed's Teaster, whilst she entertain'd the second; but hearing her Husband's tread, coming up stairs, she thrust him under the bed. The Husband, by the heat and confusion she was in, the rumpling of her cloaths, and the like, smelling a Rat, commanded her to tell him who had been there. She solemnly protested, No body. But he urging it further, she, with up lifted hands, protested again, saying, There's One above knows all. The Fellow on the Teaster thinking she had purposely betray'd him, put out his Head, all hung with Cobwebs; and said, There's one underneath the Bed knows as much as I: Whereupon, the other crept out, all rowled in the Dust. She seeing now,
it

it was in vain to deny it, fell upon her knees; and begg'd pardon. Which the good-natur'd Cuckold granted her, taking her Word for her future Honesty.

74.

A grave, old Country Blade coming before a Judge, and taking his Oath in a Cause, he was bid to have a care what he swore, lest he went to the Devil: I fear not that, (*reply'd he, by way of retort,*) for I have given him my eldest Son, and he ought to be contented with one out of a Family. How's that, (*says the Judge,*) pray explain your self. Why truly, I have made him a Lawye-, and you know the Devil was a Lawyer from the beginning. A Lyar you mean, (*said the other.*) I know not (*reply'd he*) what distinction there may be made in London, but I'm sure, by sad Experience, we in the Country know no difference between a Lawyer and a Lyar.

A French-man coming to plead at the Barr, in a Cause, and speaking broken English, came at last to citing of Cases: Now, my Lord (*said he*) having gone thus far, I'll *shite* you some Cases to prove it. Then I *shite* you the First Case; now I *shite* you a Second: Having cited these two, Now (*said he*) I will *shite* you a *Turd*. Then said the Judge, joakingly, I hope you will have the manners to withdraw, and not do it openly in the Court, before all this Company, especially in hot Weather. This non-plus'd Monsieur, and put him beside his Cases, whil'st the People found matter for laughter.

An old Blade with a great Beard, standing near a Carr-Horse, the Horse taking his Beard for a bottle of Hay, cry'd Whehee, and snap'd at it; which made the old Man give such a leap back, that he stumbled and fell in the Kennel: when getting up, he fell to cudgel-

cudgelling the Horse, and in a great rage, cry'd out, You plaguy Toad, who made you a Barber, that you must attempt to shave me, with a pox t' yee?

77.

A Water-man having taken divers into his Boat, and they not sitting in equal ballance, cry'd, as is usual, Pray, Gentlemen, trim the Boat. Whereat, a Barber being one in company, started up and cry'd, You Whore's-bird! How came you to know that I am a Barber?

78.

A humorfome Fop taking pleasure to be laugh'd at, thinking, upon that account, that his Discourse was very pleasing: A brisk Lady told him, Truly, Sir, you have a tickling Fancy; and rather than want being the subject of Diversion you will court your own Shadow to flout yee.

79. A

A Sailor having been a three-years Voyage, his Wife came to welcome him home, with a Kinchin of about half a year old in her arms: At the sight of which he grew crusty, saying, He thought she had been an honest Woman, than to have serv'd him such a trick? Why (*reply'd she*) did you force me to do it, by staying longer than your Promise? I could not help that; (*said he*.) Nor could I this, (*said she*.) For one night leaving my Chamber-door open, between sleep and 'wake, I found my self boarded a-stern, and thought it had been thee, my Dear, that came stealing in to surprize me; but being more vigorously attack'd than usual, I something doubted, and said softly to my self, *I pray God it be John!* Well (*said he*) if it happen'd against thy Will, I freely forgive thee: come, let's kiss and be Friends; but be sure to be more cautious how you leave your Door open another time, for this is a slippery world we live in, I must tell you that.

A French man coming to a house, had a Dish dress'd after the Gallick Mode ; but some Spice being wanting, he call'd, in the absence of the Mistress, to a Country Wench, that was newly come thither as a Servant, to take the Dish, and put some *Pice* in it, (that being the French Pronunciation, in broken English, for Spice.) The Wench imagining he bid her piss in it, set her flood-gate open, and *pic'd* it to the purpose, and so returned it. But he seeing no Spice, still call'd for some, not minding any thing else. When the Mistress coming in, said, How now, why don't you give the Gentleman what he asks for ? Indeed, Madam, said she, I have ; for I piss'd as much as I cou'd, and he is so unreasonable, as not to be contented with it.

A young Widow having buried an old Husband, pretends so great a love to his Memory, that she had his Image carv'd,

carv'd, and laid by her Side every Night ; which she kissed and embraced, vowing perpetual Widow-hood. But her Maid thinking this but Hypocrisie, brib'd by a brisk young Gallant, suffered him to take the place of the Image, as a more proper Bed-fellow for a brisk Woman : And to bed to him unwittingly the Widow went ; but e're Morning, so far convinced her of the difference, that she was mightily pleased, ordering an extraordinary Dinner to entertain him : but the Maid complaining for want of Bills to make a Fire, she said, Burn old Simon, Burn old Simon, (so she call'd the Image, after her former Husband's Name,) for now I have done with him, and got a better Bed-fellow.

82.

A Widow returning from the burial of her Husband, all in Tears ; you must know, an officious Neighbour offered her his Service, to hand her home ; which she accepted, and by the way, began a needless Oration to comfort her ; telling her withal, That he was a Widower, and at her devotion. Indeed Sir,

Sir, *said she*) I thank you for your kindness, but it is too late to make such a Proffer; had you done it a day sooner, I should have accepted it, but I was married privately this Morning, as not being able to lye longer alone, for fear of Spirits.

An old Beldam being carry'd before the Justice, for keeping a Bawdy-house, endeavoured to deny and excuse it: How, Huswife! *says the Justice*, have you the impudence to deny it? I know you do keep a Bawdy-house, and I'll maintain it. At this the old Woman, mistaking his meaning, took heart, and dropping him a Court'sie, said, I thank your Worship a hundred times, I want such good Customers and Supporters as you, to recover my great decay of Trade, or I shall be ruin'd, as Times goe. At this the Justice blush'd, and the People laugh'd; yet, for the Conceit's sake, remitted her Punishment.

A Country Gentleman being a Justice of Peace, having been highly offended by his Footman, resolv'd to have him corrected, without giving himself the trouble of doing it ; and therefore writ a Letter to the Keeper of the *Bridewell*, That he should, upon the receipt, take the Bearer of it, and give him severely the Correction of the House. This Letter he gave him to carry, and bring a speedy Answer back. Yet by the Direction, mistrusting some mischief, came to an Ale-house, where he found a lusty Tinker half drunk, and for Two Pots got him to carry it. The *Bridewell*-man, upon first sight, caused him to be stripp'd, saying, How durst you, Sirrah, abuse so worthy a Gentleman ? Upon this, he deny'd he knew him, and told where he had the Letter. But all would not do, till he had Forty Lashes ; and then being let loose, ran to find out and kill the Fellow that had put the trick upon him : But Peell-garlick, upon notice, was rubb'd off ; and telling his Master how he had trick'd the Tinker, obtain'd his Pardon.

85.

A Fellow, comically dispos'd, having gotten a great many Horns in a Basket, cryed, *New Furniture, Rare Furniture.* Whereupon, a grave Citizen admiring what it should be, desir'd to see it; and thereupon said, Why, you coxcomby Fool, think you any one is so mad, to buy such Ware? Yes, marry, I do, *reply'd he*; for though you are furnish'd, there are many, as wise as your self, that may have occasion for them.

86.

A Fellow running along the street, half out of breath, crying, *Fire! Fire!* Nay, said the People, you had better cry Water, for it seems there is too much Fire already.

87.

A Man having bought a pair of Bucks-Horns, his Wife asked him, what he meant to do with them? Oh, *says he*, hang my Hat on them. And why
upon

upon Horns, Husband? you might have done that, and have kept it upon your Head.

A Bailiff clapping a Man on the Shoulder, said, I Arrest you, Sir, for a Horse, (meaning, for the Money he ow'd for a Horse.) Why, reply'd the Defendant, thou errant Coxcomb, thou art not, certainly, such a Fool as thou makest thy self? Pray look upon me again: What likeness can you see, that you should be so blockheaded, as to take me for a Horse? Then tripping up his heels, said, However, I'll shew you a Horsetrick; and after giving him two or three kicks, left him in the Kennel, and so march'd off.

At a French University, they admit the Degree of *Doctor* to be taken, in lieu of a Sum of Money to supply certain Colleges, without considering their Learning and Abilities. One of which, thinking to punn upon the place, said,
merrily,

merrily, That since he was made a Doctor, he was willing his Horse might be commenced too, that being far from great Towns, where many times he met with Patients, he need not, having his Horse with him, be at the trouble to send for another Physician, upon any thing that required a Consult. That may be done, *said the Prolocutor* ; for it is no such difficulty for us who have made an Ass a Doctor, to make an Horse one likewise.

90.

A brisk Widow having an Inn, bearing the Sign of the *Maiden-Head*, left her as a Dowry ; but there being a defective Title, she was Ejected : Wherefore, in a pitiful Tone, she said, Now I find there's Law, even against keeping of Maiden-heads, for I have lost this Maiden-head by Law. Says one to her, Prithee, tell me, Did you take so on, when you lost your other Maiden-head ? No, indeed, *said she*, I had rather have lost that twenty times over ; for the Fruits of that Maiden-head I can shew still, but this is gone from me for ever.

91. A.

91.

A Man being to get Gossips for the Christning of his Wife's Child, told her, He had pitch'd upon such a One. who, by the Neighbours, was thought to be more than ordinarily familiar with her. At which, lifting up her Hands, she cry'd out, O the Father ! that you should think of him !

92.

A Shentleman of *Wales*, seeing one with a large Pomkin in his hand, said, *Was beseech bur, tell bur what has bur got there ?* Why, a Mare's Egg, you Fool you, (reply'd the other.) *And was bur get a Coult out of it, was think bur ?* Yes, (reply'd the other.) *Then bur was want one, if bur will sell bur one ?* Yes, (said the other.) *Then, Cot, Cot, bur will give bur a Groat for it ?* Content, (said the other.) So the Money was laid down, and Pomkin deliver'd, and the Welsh-man trudg'd up a Hill with it : but the Stalk breaking, it fell ; and rowling down, struck against a Bush, out

out of which started a Hare; which the Cambrio-Britain seeing, and thinking his Mare's Egg had brought forth, run after her, crying, *Stop hur Colt, stop hur Colt*; but Puss not minding his Clamour, kept on her way, and the Pomkin rousing into the Thicket, lay undiscovered; so that to his great fretting and disappointment, he went home discontented without either, to tell the strange Adventure.

93.

A Physitian having sent for a Farrier, to blood and drench his Horse, and offering him Money; No, *says the Farrier*, we are Brothers in our Practice, and must take no Fees of one another, only my desire is, That when I have occasion for you, you would deal as sincerely by me, as I have done by your Horse.

94.

A young Gentlewoman, of great Fortune, being Married, and the first and second Year, no Child in likelyhood, her Mother made strict Inquiry, where
the

70 England's merry Jester; Or,
the Defect lay; and upon her discovery, after many blushings, and hesitations, that it was in the Husband, she prevailed with her to sue out a Divorce: And the young Lady coming to shew her Reasons, desired, for Modesty's sake, she might write them, which was allowed; and attempting it, being told there was no Ink in her Pen, Why truly, *said she*, that is my Case, and you have saved me the Labour, by finding out what I designed to write.

95.

A drunken Tinker, having told, in a degrading way, That he had often worked at such a Gentleman's House, but that he kept such a penurious watch over his Servants, they durst not give him a draught of Drink. The Gentleman being displeased at this, ordered a Butt of Stout, that stood an end, to have the upper Head taken out, and Enquiry to be made for this smutty Metal-monger, to come and mend some Coppers; and being found, accordingly he came: when being lead into the Celdar, Two lusty Fellows stript him, and
fer

set him in the Liquor up to the Chin; then came the Gentleman with his drawn Sword, saying, *as if in an angry mood*, Sirrah, since you have thus disgraced me, drink up this Butt, or off goes your Head (the Fellow humbly begged his Pardon, but that would not do) for seeing you disobey my Orders, have at you; then whipping his Sword over the Top of the Cask, down dived the Tinker, to avoid the coming Blow; and having often compelled him to it, till almost drowned in the strong Drink, he bid him beware how he complained for Liquor at his House another time. Nay, truly Sir, *said he*, I never will; for now I have had too much.

96.

A young Gentlewoman having newly buried her Husband, who left her a considerable Estate, the Cocker of the Town, upon this, resolving to try his Fortune, put on his Roast-meat Cloaths, and desired to speak with her about Business, that nearly concerned her Person; and with some difficulty, being admitted, say'd, Madam, understanding
you

72 England's merry Jester ; Or,
you are a Widow, and I a Widower, I
come to offer my Service to you : For
what ? *said she*, Why, in good troth *re-*
ply'd he) to make you a Husband. A-
way filthy Fellow! *said she*, get you
gone, or I shall call up my Servants to
kick you down Stairs for your Impu-
dence. Nay Madam, *reply'd he*, be not
Angry, for I cou'd but ask you, and if
you won't, another will.

97.

Some married Persons going by the
place, where the Royal Oak Lottery
was kept, a Motion was made, to go
in and try their Luck : *says one*, None
but Cuckolds have any at Gaming ; *says*
his Wife, However, Husband try, for I
am confident you cannot miss of a
good Chance.

98.

A soft headed Gentleman, of a good
Estate, having his Child put to Nurse
by the order of his Wife, in his Ab-
sence, would needs go to see how it
throve ; and finding the Nurse to be a
married

married Woman, grew out of humour, and said, It was fit a Virgin, Chamber-Maid Nurses, and not Marry'd Nurses, should have the suckling of Gentlemens Children; for they consequently have the best Milk: giving his Reason, That Virgin-Milk must be as pure as Virgin-Honey, or Pullers Eggs: And such a one he would provide. Alas, Sir, said she, there are none such to be found amongst us simple People in the Countrey; but if you go to the *Intelligence Offices* in *London*, you may have a Wet-Chamber-Maid recommended to you, but I hardly believe you will find a Virgin there that gives suck.

99.

A Gentleman who had a monstrous great Nose, coming often to Dine at a Nobleman's who kept a Fool, the Fool would be always staring and sneering at him, crying, See there! See there! what a huge Nose that Man has! Which sometimes occasioned laughter in the Company, but made the Owner of the Nose fret, though he could not tell how to help himself. His Business lying fre-

E

quently

quently here, one day met the Fool privately, and told him, He would give him Sixpence, if he'd promise to twit him with his great Nose no more: The Fool promised he would be his Friend in it, and so they parted. But the Gentleman sitting at Dinner, when time came, as usual, in comes the Fool, and thinking to do the Gentleman a Courtesie, by retracting what he had said, cry'd out, That Man has no Nose at all! No Nose at all! No Nose at all! and so he continued bawling; which occasion'd more laughter than before.

100.

These sort of Fools are sometimes very malicious, and bloodily revengeful, for any Affronts they receive: As a poor Fellow, a Carpenter, once sadly experienced, who having anger'd a Nobleman's Fool, by throwing Water in his Face, he kept his Resentments to himself, but watched an Opportunity: The Man not thinking any harm, after Dinner, it being hot Weather, lay at his length, upon a Log, a-sleep, with his Axe by him; with which the Fool, being

being a sturdy Fellow, with one strong blow struck off his Head, and hid it in the Saw-dust: Then running in a doors, he fell into a fit of laughter, till he driv'd again: And being ask'd why he did so? *Oli! said he,* the bravest funn that ever you heard of. What is that, *Jack,* said one of the Servants? Why, reply'd he, I laugh to think, when the Carpenter wakes, how like a Fool he'll look without his Head, and lose his Afternoon's work, to find it out where I have hid it.

101.

A Country Fellow, ditching by the Way-side, happen'd, as some Persons were riding along, to see a Hundred Pound Bag drop out of a Portmantua; which he carefully took up and carry'd to his Wife, without opening. She knowing him to be a soft-headed Fellow, and fearing he would discover it, threw it aside, saying, What d'yee bring this Pudding-bag of Dirt to me for? you might have as well have stopp'd a gap with it. Truly, Sweet-heart, *says he,* I found it, and thought it might have

been worth something ; but if it ben't, it is but my labour lost. Come, Come, *says she*, you are simple, and must go to School, to learn to Read and Write, and then you may get into a better Employment. E'en what you will, Sweet-heart, *said he* ; and so the old Blade was sent to learn his Horn-book ; till by the Childrens laughing at him, he grew weary of it, and returned to his former Business. The Parties who had lost the Money, upon their return from *London*, enquired all along the Road, if any such Bag was taken up ; and remembering they had seen this Man at work, asked him. Who answered, Yes ; and his Wife had it at home. So home they went with him : But the Woman stiffly deny'd it, saying, He was foolish and phrensicall, and sometimes talk'd idly, and therefore they ought not to give credit to what he said. But they insisting on it, she desir'd them to ask him when it was that he found it ? Why, *reply'd he*, among all the days of the year, I very well remember, it was the day before I first went to School. At this they fell a laughing, and thinking indeed he was crack-brain'd, departed, satisfied

fied with what the Woman had told them.

102.

A Usurer having lost an Hundred Pounds, put out Ten Pounds Reward for any that should bring it him: A tender-conscienc'd Man finding it, brought it to him, demanding the Ten Pounds. Then, to baffle him, he alledg'd, there was a Hundred and Ten Pounds in the Bag, when lost; but upon breaking-open the Seal, there appear'd no more than an Hundred. The Man Arrested him for his Promise; and it coming to be Try'd before a Judge of *Nisi Prius*, it appearing the Seal had not been broken-open, nor the Bag ripp'd, says the Judge to the Defendant, The Bag you lost had a Hundred and Ten Pounds in it, you say? Yes, My Lord, *said he*. Then, *reply'd the Judge*, according to the Evidence given in Court, this cannot be your Money, for here was but a Hundred Pounds; therefore the Plaintiff must keep it till the true Owner comes, and you must look for your Hundred and Ten Pounds where you can find it.

E 3.

103. A

A weighty Cause coming before a corrupt Judge, he took Bribes on both Sides : One gave him a Coach, and the other a pair of fine Horses ; so that he that gave the Horses, had the Cause : Oh, Coach ! *then said the other*, thou art gone the wrong way ! *Said the Defendant*, How could you expect otherwise ? for you might well think, where my Horses draw,; your Coach must follow.

A foolish Astrologer being Jealous of his Wife, not without reason, resolv'd to try, by his Art, whether he was a Cuckold, or no. Of which her Gallant hearing, sent him these Lines :

Star-gazing Fool ! thou from the Signs
would'st see,
And Planets Face, what thy Wife's Deal-
ings be !
She does her Work below, where ne'er Sun
pries ;
And though she's light, she mounts not to the
Skies ;

'Cause

'Cause she's kept down by me. If in the
Sphere,

Thou Venus see, thou think'st thy Wife is
there:

Or if the Bull, or Aries, thou do'st see,
Thou think'st they point their Horns direct
at thee.

Fool! keep at home, while thou abroad
do'st go,

In Imitation, thy Wife's Legs do so:

And when thou gazest in the Skies, to know
Her Works, she do's ev'n what she please
below.

105.

A Gentleman whose Mistress, with
Vows and Protestations, had assur'd
him a lasting Love and Constancy:
yet finding, through her Dissimulation,
that she was fickle and wavering; to
shew the little Credit he gave to her Pro-
testations, wrote these Lines:

My Mistress saith, She'll marry none but me,
Tho' Jove himself should force her unto it:
But Womens Words unto their Lovers, be
So firm, they may in Wind or Waves be
writ.

106.

Two Fellows reeling, drunk, fell into a Gravel-Pit ; and imagining they fell into the Trap-door of a Cellar, one cry'd, Ho ! *Jack!* where are you ? Why, *said he*, I am searching about to find the Taps, that I may let all the Drink out. That's well done, *says t'other* ; and I am clambering up, to pull down the Sign : We'll teach 'em to leave their Cellar-door open, at this time of Night, to catch Travellers.

107.

A Country 'Squire coming up to Town, and being at a Tavern among his Acquaintance, and complained he had had his Pocket pick'd in a Crowd, as he came along. Says the Country Blade, I defie any one to pick mine ; for I always carry my Hands in 'em. I'll wager a Guinea, to be spent, *says another*, that you shall not go to *Smithfield-Rounds*, but you shall lose your Wager. Done, *said he*. And so, while they drunk about, the Party sent for
Two

Two notable Proficients in the Mystery of Diving and Sharping, gave 'em a sight of our Country 'Squire, told them the way he was to go, and that he purposed to carry in his Mouth a Broad-Piece of Gold, mark'd with a (W.) This will be hard to get : however, *said they*, we'll try our Skill : and so being promised a Crown, and Indemnity, they watch'd his setting-out, and followed him. Coming to the *Rounds*, while he stood looking about him, one of them pull'd out a Handkerchief, and, as by chance, scatter'd some Silver and Farthings : Thereupon, crying he was undone, if they stood not by him to prevent a Scramble ! Our Countryman, among the rest, was busie, and pick'd up some ; which he gave him. Then his Comrade asked him if he had all ? No indeed, *said he*, I want a Broad-piece of Gold, that I highly prize, because it was given me by my Grand-mother, upon her Death bead. Why, *said the other*, I saw this Country-man put it into his Mouth. Then said he, if it be mine, it is mark'd with a (W.) The Country 'Squire deny'd not that he had such a Piece, but said it was his

own: however, the Rabble gathering about him, and crying out, Knock him on the Head, for a Rogue! he was forc'd to deliver it. So away the two Sharpers went, and deliver'd it to the Party that had set them at work; who gave them the promis'd Reward. At last, in came our Country Blade very melancholy, owned his Wager lost, and said, He fear'd, if he stay'd long in *London*, he should have his Teeth stole out of his Head, at this rate: therefore he would down into the Country again, where there was no Cheating but among Great Men and Jockeys at Horse-Races, and Ladies at Cards.

108.

One having lost a Watch, and coming into the Company of an arch Poet, upon telling his lamentable Disaster, One desir'd a Verse or two to be made on it, as a *Memento* to others: Which run thus:

*All you that Watches have, this do,
Pocket your Watch, and watch your Pocket too.*

109. One

109.

One following a Gentlewoman, and passing her, turn'd back to look in her Face, and said, Madam, you are exceeding Handsome. I wish, Sir, *said she*, without wronging my Judgment, I could return you the like Complement. A Pox take your Scruples! *reply'd he*; Why can't you tell a Lye for me, as well as I have told one for you?

110.

A Gentlewoman desiring to know of a Physitian, Whether the Milk of a Cow might not do as well as Asses Milk, so much cry'd up, upon that account? Truly, *said he*, every thing ought to have Milk of its Kind; my Patients ought to have Asses Milk: but if any other Doctor has Calves to his Patients, Cows Milk is proper.

111.

A noted Bawd being sent to *Bridewell*, for occasioning the debauchery of a young

young Gentlewoman, by enticing her to the lascivious Embraces of a Spark, for a Summ of Money, she fell sick and died there, leaving much Wealth behind her, ordering, by her Last Will, Five Guinea's for a Funeral Sermon ; in the Conclusion of which, the Minister was to give her a good Character. But not knowing what to say of her who had lead so leud a Life, lest he should be banter'd upon, as one of her Customers, he got a Stranger to Preach: Who, after Sermon, said, It is, I doubt not, expected, but that I should say something in behalf of the Party deceased: All that can be said; is, She was Born well, Brought-up well, Liv'd well, and Dy'd well: being born at *Shadwell*, brought-up at *Camberwell*, living a House-keeper at *Clerkenwell*; and, lastly, my Beloved, dying in *Bridewell*.

H12.

An ignorant Country Lad being cited, among the rest of the Parish-Children, upon a Visitation, to be Catechized; after some other had answered, the Commandments came to his turn to repeat:.

peat : And being asked, how many there were ? he stood gaping, as if he had heard Dutch spoken. What ! *said the Minister*, Can a Fellow of your Age be ignorant of this Question ? I thought you had known them, and kept them too ? No indeed, *reply'd he, very seriously*, I never kept any thing in my life, but my Father's Sheep.

113.

A Country Woman having sent her Son with a Basket of Medlers, to a Lady that was her Landlady ; he, though very clownish, thought, however, to bestow a Complement upon so fine a Woman, at the delivery, said, Forsooth, my Mother has sent you a whole Peck of Open-Arses ; but let me tell you, by the way, if you don't keep them till they are as rotten as a Turd, they will not be worth a Fart. The Lady smiling at his Manners, gave him a Shilling. Soon after, the Mother came with her Rent ; and being sat at Dinner, the Lady was telling her what a pretty Boy she had, but withal, very Clownish, and told her likewise what he had said. Was he so
Unman-

86 England's merry Jester ; Or,
Unmannerly, notwithstanding the good
Breeding I have bestow'd on my self,
(says the Woman, starting up in a Rage,)
Ne'er stir ! Madam, if I don't go home
and whip the Rascal till he beshits him-
self agen ! This turn'd some squeamish
Stomachs ; but the Lady smiling at it,
said, No, No, you shall not beat him ;
for I see he was no better taught.

114.

A Lady having cast a Person at Law,
who contended with her for great a part
of her Estate, in Joy for her Success,
invited her Tenants to a splendid Dinner;
and telling them the cause of it, said,
You see, my honest Neighbours, my
Right has, at last, taken place, and my
Adversary is frustrated of his unjust Ex-
pectations. Upon this, up starts a blunt
Country, and thinking to pass a Com-
plement, said, Madam, I always thought
he took the wrong Sow by the Ear,
when he meddl'd with your Lady-
ship.

115. Some

115.

Some Gentlemen coming into an Inn, in *London*, in cold Weather, and perceiving the Carriers and Porters had wedged in the Fire, that they could not come at it; One wink'd at the Hostler, and bid him fetch Half of Peck of Oysters, and give them to his Horse. At this some star'd, and others laugh'd. Why, Good Fellows, *said he*, if you knew what kind of Horse mine it, you would not think it strange; for he's a Sea-Horse, and only feeds upon Shell-Fish. At this they all start up, and run to see him, as some strange Wonder; whil'st the Gentleman and his Companions possessed their warm Places, and left them in the Cold, to fret at their folly, in being so dexterously out-witted.

116.

A Man that had marry'd a bitter scolding Wife, that worry'd him almost out of his Life, being frightened one Evening, as he was coming home, by a
Phantom,

Phantom, or Spirit, which, as it drew nigher, put him into a sweating and trembling Condition, Oh! *said he*, if thou art a Good Spirit, thou wilt do poor Mortals no Injury ; but if thou art a Bad One, and belongest to the Devil, there is all the reason in the world thou should'st spare me, because I am so nearly related to thy Master, as having but newly marry'd his Sister.

117.

A Fellow suspecting himself to be a Cuckold, resolved, by a Stratagem, to get Confession of it from his Wife ; and thereupon getting a great many Cocks Spurs, with some Glew, demanded the Question ? But she deny'd it. Well, *said he*, for all this, I know I am so ; and I have been with a Cunning-Man about it, and he has found out, that you have play'd false with me once, and see here thereupon a Horn risen on my Fore-head ; and he tells me, next time I come, he will raise as many Horns, by his Art, to upbraid you, as the times you have been false to my Bed. O dear Husband! *said she*, don't go to him no more,

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more, lest you become a Monster all over.

118.

An old Woman, of Fourscore, having marry'd a lusty Fellow of Five and twenty; and he using her scurvily, which made her crawl to a Justice's, to make her Complaint, and get a Warrant, in order to Bind him over to his Good-behaviour: Where she was reprov'd, for being so foolish to marry in her Old Age, when she ought to have minded better things, as having one Foot in the Grave. What! *reply'd she, very angrily,* wou'd you have me turn Whore?

119.

A Fellow having Indicted a Butcher of *Picadilly*, at the *Old-Baily*, for stealing his Sow, produced the Sow's Head, which was found in his Powdering-Tub, as an Evidence of the Fact. Says the Court, Did you shew this to any body, as soon as you found it? Yes, (*says the Fellow, mistaking by speaking too eagerly,* I carry'd the Justice's Head before.

90 England's merry Jester; Or,
fore the Sow, and there the Prisoner
confess'd the Fact.

120.

A Country Fellow driving a Team,
and the Fore-horse being very fat, the
rest lean, two Lawyers overtaking him,
one said to the other, Let us joak upon
this Fellow? A Match (said the other.)
Good Fellow, *says the former*, what is
the reason that your Fore-Horse is so
plum, and full of flesh, and all the rest
are of *Pharaoh's* lean Kine? O, Sir!
says he, he is the Lawyer, and the rest
are the Clients.

121.

A Welsh-man having sold a great
Estate in the Mountains, and in the Val-
leys, came up to London with a full
Purse; and seeing a Gentleman give Five
Pounds for a Hawk, cheapned and
bought one at the same price, and im-
mediately rung off his Neck. And be-
ing ask'd the Reason for so doing? He
reply'd, *Plut, was let hur English-men
know hur was a Shentleman of Wales, and
con'd*

cou'd afford to eat as good a Bird as the best of 'em all.

122.

A Spark that lodg'd in a House where there was a brisk Landlady, whose Husband was none of the ablest in Performance ; he coming into her Chamber, one day, in the absence of the Good-Man, said, He hoped she would be kind to him? Why, when, *said she*, was I ever otherwise? Ay, but I mean, *said he*, in another manner? Why, truly, this is the first time you ever ask'd me, and I should be uncivil, to refuse your first Request. This coming briskness dashed the Gallant out of countenance, and made him willing to be off agen, as at that time not well provided; and thinking, by this means to do it, said, Madam, One thing I'll barr. What's that? *said she*. Why, *reply'd he*, That you shall not cry-out? Puh! *reply'd she*, trouble not your self about that ; but if you barr any thing, barr the Door, to prevent a Surprise.

123.

A Country Girl, newly come to a *London-Service*, looking over the Shoulders of some that were at Cards ; a Man that was hem'd in, said, Prithee, Sweet-heart, go into the Yard and make Water for me, for I can't get out. To which the harmless Wench simply reply'd, Truly, Sir I can't do it now ; for I just made Water in the Back-Room : but when I have a Need agen, I'll do't. for you, with all my heart.

124.

A lusty Country Lass, gathering Apples, venturing too far, and over-reaching her self, slipp'd her Hold, and dropt with her Legs between the Forks of a Bough ; which stripp'd up her Cloaths, that she hung naked to the Navel, kicking and sprawling, and crying out for Help. A Fellow that was Thrashing, ran immediately to relieve her, setting the Ladder to that Bough : But as he was going up, what through fear, shame, and struggling to unloose her self, her
Flood-

Flood-gate burst open, whil'st she cry'd out, Don't look, *Harry* ! Don't look, *Harry* ! Zuz' and fut' ! Look ! quo'thee ? why, thou hast so blinded me with Urine, that I can hardly find my way to thee.

125.

A Miller having a good quantity of Corn come to be Ground, in his absence ; when he came home, with his Dish in his Hand, demanded, who had taken Toll ? That have I, said the Wife : And I, said the Boy : And I, said the Maid. Well, said he, I shall believe ne'er a Rogue nor Whore of you all : for this is such a Lying Age, that a Man ought not to believe any thing but what he sees with his own Eyes ; therefore, to be upon sure grounds, I'll take it my self.

126.

A Man and a Woman, after hot Words, falling together by the Ears in the Street, a great Crowd was gathered about them : Among the rest, an Old Woman

Woman crowded in, to know what was the occasion of that Tumult? and desir'd a man that stood by her, to inform her how it began? You're a Whore! *says he* : And you're a Rogue, *reply'd she*, to call me Whore. Why, e'en so, Mother, *said he*, the Quarrel began.

127.

Two Women falling out in *Kent-street*, after many hard Words had pass'd on both Sides, *says one*, You had not only a Great-Belly when you was Married, but have made your Husband a Cuckold divers times since. The Man, who was a Taylor, and at work in a Garret cross the way, hearing this, could hold no longer, but put his Head out of the Window; and calling aloud, What's that she says, Sweet-heart? Why, my Dear, *reply'd his Wife*, she says you're a Cuckold. Do's she so, *said he*? Had she call'd me Ass, or Puppy, or any such sociable Creature, I cou'd have borne it; but this Reflexion is insufferable: therefore, Come up presently; carry my best Cloak to the Broaker's, and pawn it for Ten Groats; I'll have a War-

a Warrant for her, and ruine her, whatever betides me.

128.

A Journey-man and the Man of the House's Sister being very intimate, had often private Conversation when the rest were a bed; and one Night, among other gamesome Frolicks, a large Smock hanging upon the Line by the Fire, the Man handling it, said, VVhose Shift is this, Mrs. Sarah? VVhy, 'tis mine, *reply'd she*. Indeed, *said he*, you are very extravagant; half the Holland would have serv'd. No indeed, *reply'd she*, it would not; for it is never a whit to wide, as the Fashion is now. VVhy, *said he*, I'll wager you a Treat of Ten Shilling, it is big enough for us both, if our Cloaths were off? Done! *said she*; and immediately they stripp'd (it not being the first time they had been so, upon other Occasions;) but forcibly thrusting their Arms streight in the Sleeves, (tho' the Wager was yielded,) they could not get them out agen, but resolved to tear one of the Sleeves upon a Tenter-hook belonging to the Shelf where

where the Pewter stood : in order to which, they got upon a Joynt-stool, and having fasten'd the Linnen, jump't down, and pull'd after them the Shelf, and all the Pewter. This unlucky Accident very much surpriz'd 'em ; and no less the Master, and the rest of the Family, who imagining there were Thieves in the House, arm'd themselves accordingly with Spits, Forks, Tongs, and such like Weapons ; the Master, as Captain, marching in the Front, saying to the others, Come, Boys, be of good Courage, you know the old Saying, *One honest Man is stouter than Ten Thieves* ; Come on, I say ; for I question not but we shall quickly oblige them to yield, when one they perceive our Courage and Resolution. Thus marching down the Stairs, as resolute as an Army of Soldiers at the besieging of a City, upon the Promise of Free-Plunder, they search'd first in one Room, then in another, still meeting with nothing that might oppose them ; but at length, coming into the Room where the Pewter was wont to stand, instead of taking the Game they hunted for, they were more surpris'd than before,

at

at the sight of this unexpected and seemingly monstrous Object, not knowing what to make on't, considering they had unluckily put out the Candle in their striving to get out of the Smock, but only they might discern something all white, with Two Heads, and Four Legs moving upon the floor, by the small light which the Fire gave them: This struck such a Terror upon them all, that none of 'em durst attempt to approach nigh it. All this while our entangl'd Couple lay struggling and sweating on the ground, not daring, through fear and shame, to make themselves known to their affrighted Beholders: Till the Master of the House, being more couragious than the rest, boldly resolv'd to discover what it was; and coming towards 'em, was about to stick the Spit which he had in his Hand thorough the Body of this supposed Monster; but the Woman perceiving the up-lifting of his Hand, skreamed out, saying, Oh, Brother! Mercy! Mercy, for Heav'n's sake! it is I, it is I, your distressed Sister, and unfortunate Journey-man, *Richard*, who innocently sporting together, have

F

most

most unhappily twined our selves in this manner ; out of which it is impossible for us to get free, without some Assistance from your helping Hand : therefore, I beseech you, as a tender Brother, have some Compassion for your miserable Sister, and her unhappy Companion, in the Condition we are now in, and our utmost Endeavours shall be, for the future, to retaliate your Kindness in the highest manner we shall ever be capable of performing ; (the Fellow groaning and sighing all the while, not speaking one word for himself, but expecting to be sent immediately into the other World, for the Affront put upon his Master, in being so over-familiar with his Sister.) Her Brother starting, to hear his Sister's Voice, fancy'd himself to have been in a Dream, by reason he perceiv'd some small familiarity betwixt them at other times : But her repeated Importunities and Crying-out, soon convinc'd him of the Reality of what he before but barely imagin'd. And considering withal, what an Odium their Family would undergo, first turn'd his Sister upon the Man, resolving at once to pin them both to the ground with

with his Spit; and was just ready to pierce it through their Bodies, had not another of the Family, who perceived now the worst of the Danger, fortunately stepp'd in, and stopping his Hand, prevented the fatal stroke, and interceded for their Pardon. The Brother, at first, could not easily be appeased; but his Passion abating, and considering, the best way would be, to keep it as private as they could from the Ears of their Neighbours, he promised to unloose them; but with this *proviso*, That they should tye themselves faster by a Matrimonial Conjunction, and by that means prevent the Scandal which unavoidably would be brought upon their Family. To this they very joyfully consented; and lovingly Kissing as they lay on the ground, swore Constancy and Fidelity to each other, and in a few days after were marry'd accordingly, and liv'd very happily together for many years, but vow'd never to get both at once into the Smock agen.

A Gentleman coming along the Road, and seeing a blind Man carrying a Cripple on his Back, and being Poetically given, thus descanted on them :

*How happily Fate hath together join'd
Two feeble Men ! one Lame, the other Blind !
The Blind Man bears the Lame, the Lame
supplies,
By his Direction, t'other's want of Eyes.
See what the urging power of Need can do !
It makes the Blind to see, the Lame to go.*

A company of pretended Cripples, with counterfeit Sores, false Legs and Arms, sitting begging at the bottom of a Hill where a Country Fair was kept ; a mad Fellow, to try an Experiment, crying, *Have among you, Blind Harpers !* rowled down a Garden Rowling-stone, directly aimed at them. But they foreseeing the danger, cut the Strings that tied up their true Legs, and fell to scampering, as nimbly as Boys of sixteen.

131.

A Gentleman seeing a Fellow a
Lousing himself underneath a Hedge,
in a miserable tatter'd Condition;
Friend, *says he*, How come you to be
in this poor Equipage, seeing you have
such abundance of live Cattle to dispose
of? Alas! Sir, *reply'd he*, that is my
misfortune: for although I have a large
Stock, I'm forc'd to keep it in my own
Hands, for want of a Chapman; and
shall be constrained to do so still, unless
your Worship will be pleas'd to take
them off, at reasonable Rates.

132.

A merry Poet having marry'd a
shrew'd Wife, soon repented his Bar-
gain, and complained; and thus fabled:

*The Country People once a Wolf did take,
Which of their Sheep and Lambs did harvock
make:*

*To many Deaths to Judge him they began,
Till starting up, a newly marry'd Man*

F. 3.

Loy

102 England's merry Jester; Or,
Lay by: said he, Your Fire, Sword, Guns
and Whips,
These are light Torture; I have one out-
strips
All those: If you would punish him to'th Life,
For his Crimes, Then let him wed a Wife.

133.

A Country Gentleman have marry'd a rich Citizen's Daughter, she carried down a large Monkey with her: which being chained at the Parlour-door, an Old Woman who was his Tenant, coming to speak with him, took it for his Page, and making a reverend Court'sie, said, Pray, young Gentleman, Is your Master within? At which Pugg grinn'd and chatter'd. Why truly, said she, this is very uncivil, to flout at a Woman that is old enough to be your Mother.

134.

A Welsh-man coming to London, and seeing a Jackanapes sitting behind the Counter, in a Shop, went in, putting off his Hat, and desired hur to give hur

hur a Groat and Eight Tokens for Half a Shilling. The Jackanapes took the Money, and whip'd it into the Chink, and then sat him down again very gravely. The Welsh-man making a clamour for his *shange*, the Master came out, and sternly demanded, Whether he came to rob his Shop, or not? No, (reply'd he,) but hur come to shange Half a Shilling. Where is it? (said the Master of the Shop.) Why (reply'd *Shon ap Shinkin*) hur gif it to hur aged Father here, and hur have put it into that Hole. The Shop-keeper laughing at this, gave him Six-pence, without further Enquiry, and so dismiss him.

135.

A Fellow for Forgery, being adjudged to lose his Ears, and the Hangman, upon search missing them, said, Thou art an errant Cheat; for thou hast not only deceived others, but even me, who am the very Hand of Justice. Why Block-head, (said he,) Am I bound to find every Rascal Ears to cut off, *ad infinitum*?

136.

A Man and his Wife falling out, among other Reproachss, she clapping her Hands, cry'd, Ah, you Cuckold.y Rogue ! Huswife (said he) if I am a Cuckold, how the Devil came you to know it ?

37.

A Man riding along a Road that passed through a Corn-Field, said to a Swinherd, You have a troublesome sort of Cattle to deal withal. Yes truly (said the Swinherd) they are so, and know not a Letter but what I teach them. Why (said the other) do they understand Letters ? I can't tell that, (again reply'd the Swinherd,) they understand my Instructions well enough, and one another too. Why (said the Traveller,) What says that Hog that is pressed by the other ? Alas, poor Soul ! (reply'd the Swinherd,) he bids him lye further off, and complains that he hurts his Shoulder. Why truly (said the Man) thou art the first Hog School-Master I ever

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ever met with, in all the Travels of my
whole Life.

138.

A Man commending his Wife, for the great Love she bore him, another would not believe it. Why (said he) it evidently appears in this ; As soon as I rise, she takes a pleasure to remove into the very place where I have lain. Ay (said the other) that makes it plainly appear, that she loves your Absence better than your Company.

139.

A conceited Spark, who would be often thrusting himself into Ladies Companies, one day bragging of the Favour they allow'd him, and that they were proud to accept of his Favours, frequently begging one thing or other of him. This, Sir, (said an arch Wag that sat by,) is very true ; for I my self have heard them intreat, that you would bestow your very Absence on them.

A Man and his Wife having agreed in bed, in a cold Night, That whoever spoke first, should arise and shut the Door, which they had accidentally left open: In the mean while, a rambling Fellow, that was shut out of his Lodging, and a little in drink, came reeling in; and finding a Bed, crept in, the two Parties lying all the while silent: but by and by the Husband perceiving how it was with his Wife, could hold no longer, but said, Why do you suffer this? O Husband! (reply'd she,) you have spoken first, therefore you must rise and shut the Door.

A Youngster newly come from the University, who had not sown his wild Oats, being put into a small Living in the Country; long he had not been there, but a Complaint was made by a precise *Non Con*, That he had play'd at Cudgels behind the Church, on a Sunday, after Sermon. His Patron check'd him highly.

highly for it, telling him, the Scandal reflected upon himself, for placing such a One in the Cure. Why, Sir, (reply'd he,) what would you have me do? I am placed over a Company of Block-headed People, that forget all that I say to them, before they get out of the Church-yard; therefore seeing Words are not of force sufficient to penetrate their thick Skulls, I could consider of no better way, than to beat my Instructions into their Heads, that they might carry them home in their remembrance, and edifie accordingly.

142.

An arch Spark being carried before Justice who was none of the wisest, for running his Sword thorough a Tanner's Dog, that breaking out of the yard, assaulted him as he was walking by the Door. Sirrah! (said the Justice,) How durst you kill this honest Man's Dog? you, no doubt, have a design to rob the House. No indeed, Sir, not I; but I'll show you how it was (said he :) The Dog leaped over the Pails, and came running full at me, as I do at you, with

a Bough, Wough, Wough ; and hereupon the Justice, being troubled with the Gout, and sitting in a Chair, he quite over-threw him, Chair and all : Whereupon he cried out, Oh ! this murdering Rogue has kill'd me ! Make his *Mittimus*, and send him to Goal ; I'll have him hang'd, whatever comes on't. By this time he was helped up, and a little recovered ; Come, Sirrah ! (says he,) What is your Name ? So and so (said the Gentleman, telling him what his Name was.) Why (said the Justice) that is My Lord such a one's Name. True, Sir, (reply'd the other,) and I am the Man. Oh ! are you so ? then I crave your Mercy, dear Sir, and the case is alter'd, (said the Justice ;) and turning to the Tanner, with a very stern Countenance, Sirrah ! (says he,) How durst you let your Dog loose, to fly upon such a worthy Gentleman ? Come, come, I'll teach you to take more care another time ; Make his *Mittimus*, and send him to Goal. And accordingly he had been committed, had not the Gentleman in Generosity excus'd him.

143.

A Woman at *Wapping* having lost some trivial Matters, was in a great hurry for her Hood and Scarf, to go to a Woman that profess'd the Art of *Astrology* (you must needs know.) Which a Boy about Eight or Nine Years old seeing, said, Where are you running in such haste? Why (said she) to the Wise Woman. Oh, Mother! (reply'd the Boy,) then, good now, let me go with yee; for I never saw a VVife VVoman in my life, as yet.

144.

A Young Gentlewoman being forced, by the rigour of her Parents, into the Arms of an Old Man, for a great Estate, and frustrated of marrying One to whom she had given her Promise; the two Lovers, however, met privately, and had sundry Enjoyments; but at last, the jealous old Blade, by the Spies he had set, intrapp'd them: but they were so far from being 'frighted, that they boldly justified the Action, saying, They were,

110 England's merry Jester ; Or,
were, in Conscience, before God, Man
and VVife. This vexed the Miser to
the Heart ; but not daring to demand
Satisfaction with his Sword, he resolv'd
to have it by Law, and accordingly Ar-
rested the Gentleman for a 1000 l.
Damages. But upon the Tryal, the
Gentleman, who was well belov'd, had
so many Friends in the Jury, that upon
the return of the Verdict, they brought
in only a Mark Damage for the Plain-
tiff. At which falling into a great rage,
VVell (says he) Gentlemen, this is
monstrous strange, that having proved
my self a Cuckold upon Record, you
should give me but a Mark ! and so
flinging out of the Court, said, I pray
God that all your VVives may mark
you as shamefully as mine has done me ;
and may your Horns be as long as Bar-
ber's Poles.

A conceited Fop having dressed him-
self very gay, and being with his Mi-
stres, often peep'd in the Glass, and
careen'd his VVig ; then strutting to-
wards her, said, Madam, VVho do you
think

Court, City and Country Jest. 111

think is the prettiest Man you ever saw? (imagining she would point out himself;) but on the contrary, Truly, Sir, (said she,) the Man that is the most unlike you, of all Men living.

146.

Two Persons contending about Singing, a Person whom they appointed to decide the Matter pretending to have Skill, but indeed had none, giving his Verdict apparently in the wrong; the injur'd Gentleman said; Now, Sir, I will tell you a Story: Once upon a time, when Birds and Beasts cou'd speak, a Cuckow and a-Nightingale contended who sung sweetest, or gave the best content to their Auditors; but not agreeing, it was put to the next Passenger to decide; which unluckily happen'd to be an Ass.

147.

Two Sharpers of the Town accidentally meeting, says one, Come, Jack, since we are so happily stumbl'd upon one another, let us take a Pint together?

A

A Match, (says the other;) and so they went into a Tavern. But drinking about for a while, when they came to examine their Pockets, they found themselves deceived, one thinking the one had, and the other thinking the other had Money enough to defray the Charges, when, indeed, both of them could make but Eight Farthings. Hang it then (said the Inviter) we had as good be in for a great deal as a little, so they call'd lustily, till it came to a Crown; then looking out at the Window, as if they had been viewing the descent, says one to the other, I have it now. Upon that, knocking, and desiring to speak with the Master, up he came: Sir, says one, we came hither about a Mathematical business, to measure from your Window to the Ground; I have lay'd upon 13 Foot, 9 Inches; my Friend on 13 Foot; and you are to be Judge, that I slip not this Line till he goes down to see whether from this Knot (shewing it him,) which is just so much, it reaches the Ground. The Vintner was content. The other Sharper being below in the Street, cry'd, It did not reach by 11 Inches. Pray, Sir, says he to the Vintner,

ner, hold it here, till I step down and see ; for I cannot believe him. So down he went, telling the Drawer he had pay'd his Master, and away they both scow'r'd, leaving the String for his Reckoning.

148.

A Coffee-man of a very thick Skull, often bragging that a great Estate would fall to him before he dy'd ; for a Gipsey who had told him his Fortune, had assured him of it. A Person who had a mind to put upon him, coming in one day, as in puffing haste, said, Now, Mr. N. I come to tell you brave News : There is an Estate left you by One of your old Acquaintance. Who is that ? (said he.) Nay, (said the other,) I am out of breath ; Let us drink first, e're I tell further ? With all my heart, Sir, (said the Coffee-man ;) What will you please to drink ? Command it, and it shall be at your Service ? Why (said the Gentlemen) I think, a quart of Mum : And down thunder'd Ignoramus to fetch it ; when the Thoughts of this Estate employ'd his Faculties to that degree,

114 England's merry Jester; Or,
degree, that for haste, he came running
up agen with his Spigot in his Hand,
whilst the Barrel of Mum run about
the Cellar. The Gentleman minding
him, could not forbear laughing: Which
the other not regarding, insisted to know
when he should be possessed of this great
Estate he talk'd on? Why e'en (says the
Gentleman) when you come to Years
of Discretion, and can distinguish a Lye
from an *Æsop's* Fable; and so left him
to be banter'd by the rest of the Com-
pany.

149.

A grave Blade going by a House he
had formerly frequented, seeing it shut-
up, and a Bill to Lett it, he demanded
what was become of the Owner of it?
Why, *reply'd one that stood by*, he is gone
off, and it is seiz'd upon for a Mortgage.
Nay, *said old Dry-boots*, I found the House
within so full of Meat and Drink, when
I was there last, that I guess'd it would
grow queasie-stomach'd in a short time,
and spew out its Master.

150. An

150.

An aged Woman being very much indisposed, One came to comfort her, and asked if he should read by her? Yes, if you please, *said she*. And what shall I read? *said he*. Why truly, *reply'd she*, what you imagine best: but now I think further on it, *continu'd she*, I think it had best be Matrimony; for that has been very sweet and comfortable to me formerly; and may yet. for ought I know, give some Ease and Refreshment by the Power of Imagination.

151.

A Man with a great red Nose, being a Passenger on Shipboard, was mighty timorous in a Storm: and though the Ship was in danger to be cast away, the Cabbin-Boy could not forbear laughing, though he receiv'd some Bastinado's for his unseasonable mirth. The Storm being over, the Party demanded the Reason of his Laughter? Oh! *said he*, to think how your Nose would have whizz'd,

As England's merry Jester; Or,
whizz'd, if we had been cast-away; and
made the Water boyl up, as you were
going down to the bottom.

152.

A Person very mis-shapen, would,
notwithstanding, have his Picture
drawn: but being covetous withal,
when it was finish'd, he would not pay
the Price agreed on. Well, Sir, *said*
the Limner, this is very unfair; however,
I value it not a Pin, for I shall lose no-
thing by it, though you think you have
disappointed me. Why, what will you
do with it? *said the Gentleman*: Puh!
continu'd he, Who d'ye think will give
any such Price as I now bid you, for
another Man's Picture? Oh! *said the*
Painter, it is but altering the Property
a little, and that do's it. As how, pray?
said the Gentleman: Why, *said the Lim-*
ner, 'tis but putting a Tail to it, and it
will pass for an excellent Babboon, to
place in a Nobleman's House of Ease-
ment. At this the Gentlemen storm'd
and bluster'd at a high rate; but for fear
he should do as he said, was forc'd to pay
him his Price, and take it himself.

153. A

153.

A Student that was newly marry'd, being a Bed with his Wife, and being used, when single, to read himself asleep, call'd for his Book : But she having another kind of Lesson for him to read, call'd for her Wheel and Spindle. How ! *said he* ; What mean you by this, now 'tis late ? Why truly, *said she*, that I may spin, whil'st you reel ; for none but one reeling drunk, would study, by Book, for to learn the Bus'ness we have to do to Night, since every one has it by rote.

154.

A Sailor that had lost one of his Arms, marrying a Female that pass'd for a Virgin ; but pretending to be a Critick in Maiden-heads, told her on the Wedding-Night, That she had put a butter'd Bunni upon him. No matter, *said she*, it is good enough for such a one as you, who are but Part of a Man. Why, you Drab, *says he*, Do you jeer me for being maimed, when it was done, valiantly.

118 England's merry Jester ; Or,
valiantly fighting with my Enemy ?
And why then, *said she*, do you upbraid
me with what I have lost, amorously
embracing with my Friend ? Is it not
better to be in Love, than Hatred ?
You lost by your Enemy, and I by my
Friend ; there's the difference, and so
let us agree it.

155.

A poor Fellow who had a long time
gone under a Scandal among the Wo-
men, for his Insufficiency ; several of
them being got into a knot, chatting
together, seeing him come along, some
pointed at him with forked Fingers ;
others clapp'd their Hands, Ha loo,
my Dog ! When in the *interim*, a grave
Matron, something more charitable
(you must know) thrusting her self into
the Gang of Gossips, without knowing
the meaning of this Diversion, said,
Oh ! Fye upon you ! How can you be
so hard-hearted, as thus to abuse a poor
Man, that does you no injury. Yes,
says one, whispering to her, he has put the
Cheat upon our Sex ; for he has marry'd
a brisk Woman, and has got nothing to
satisfie

satisfie her. Oh, Rogue! *reply'd she*, has he so? Then, Ha loo, my Cat too.

156.

A Cooper having a Wife that used to take too much of the Juyce of Barley over night, could not keep her Vessel from leaking a-bed: For which he chastising her one morning with a Hoopstick, divers of her Gossips came to intercede for her: some chid him, and others intreated, saying, she was the weaker Vessel. Why, Goody Prattle, *said he*, that's the reason I am about my work; for when she's well hoop'd, she will be stronger, and hold her Water the better.

157.

A Gentleman that used to Romance egregiously, cheapening a large Eel at a Fishmongers Stall, and being asked Half a Crown for it; Puh! *says he*, I bought one at *Amsterdam*, as thick and as long as the *May-Polen* the *Strand*, for that Price, my Man here can justifie it. Truly said his Man, (willing to bring his Master off, becaule the Fishmonger thought

120 England's merry Jester ; Or,
thought it incredible,) I think, Sir, it
was scarce so long, considering the
Chimney it was roasted in, but I be-
lieve it might be as thick————

158.

An Apothecary having over-charged
his Brain at a Tavern, and no Coach to
be got, he was put into a Basket, and
the Porter sent home with him on his
Back. Feing asked by the Watch, What
he had got there? replied, Only A-Pot.
I-carry.

159.

A Taylor being rampant in the ab-
sence of his Wife, strowling the Streets
for a bit of Harlotry, cruising too near
danger, fell foul of a Fire-ship; which
firing his Main-Yard, that communi-
cated the flame to other Parts: so that
for fear of sinking into another World,
he found himself constrained to be re-
fitted at a Bottom-Menders (call'd a Sur-
geon,) who in his Bill, reckon'd him
such an extravagant rate, viz. 70 l.
that he would not pay it without Refe-
rence :

rence: And Two of the Profession, not to lower the Value of so great a Cure, brought it in, That it was a very Reasonable Bill: So that altho' Mr. Stitch grumbl'd, he was obliged to pay it. But resolving to be even with him, and not to be out-lengthen'd in his Bill, brought him in Eighty Pounds for a Suit and Cloak: Which Two Taylors judged, upon reference, to be very Reasonable. By which means he out-witted his Doctor, got his Money, the Value of the Cloaths, and his Cure, for Nothing. This for the Honour of the Tailors, and the Conscience of either Calling.

160.

A handsome young Woman being marry'd to a rich Man who had lost his Sight by a Blast of Powder, some blam'd her for it; but an arch Wag, to vindicate her, wrote thus:

*Blame not fair Celia, that she marry'd be,
Tho' she be fair, to one that could not see:
For in the thing in which she takes delight,
And he do's covet, there's no need of Sight.*

G

161. A

A scolding Woman being often reproved for the sharpness of her Tongue, she justified, That it was the Woman's only Weapon, the Use of which they ought not to be denied, (as I find it in a certain Female Author; viz.)

*I wonder why Dame Nature thus
Her various Gifts dispences !
She every Creature else beside
With Arms and Armour fences.*

*The Bull with bended Horns she arms ;
With Hoof she guards the Horse :
The Hare can nimbly run from harms ;
All know the Lyon's Force.*

*The Bird can Danger flie on's Wing ;
The Fish with Finns adorns :
The Cuckold too, that harmless thing,
His Patience guards, and's Horns.*

*The Men she Valiant makes, and Wise,
To shun and baffle Harms :
But to poor Woman she denies
Armour to give, or Arms.*

Instead

*Instead of all this, she do's do,
Sharp Tongues she them bestows;
Which serve for Arms and Armour too,
'Gainst all their pow'rful Foes.*


162.

A Man having a very turbulent Wife, and she having tired him out with her Curtain-Lectures, he left the House, and plac'd himself upon a Chamomile-Bank in the Garden: Which she observing, and resolv'd on a fuller Revenge, threw the Chamber-Pot out of the Window, upon his Head. Well, *said he*, we must always expect a Shower after Thunder and Lightning.

163.

A Landlord coming one Morning to dunn a Tennant for Rent, found him standing in the Door-way, with his Eye full of Water. How now! *said the Landlord*; What's the matter with you? Why, *reply'd the Tennant*, the House smoaks so intolerably, there's no enduring it. I can't, believe that, *said the Landlord*; It never us'd to do so. Then, pray,

pray, *said the Tenant*, to be better satisfy'd, go up and see. So up he went; and the Room being something dark, the Woman thinking it had been her Husband returned to have t'other Bout at Cudgels for the Breeches, fell to belabouring him with the Broom-stick, crying, You Rogue! I thought I had bang'd you sufficiently! but now I'll do't to the purpose! And so drubbing him down Stairs, he caught his Tenant by the Hand, saying, Come along! Come along! I find your words true, There is no enduring it: Let us therefore to the next Ale-house, and consult how it may be remedy'd.

 A Young Woman being marry'd to a Man of Years, and having a brisk Apprentice, he perceiv'd by the Language of her Eyes, and some other Love-Motions, that she bid him come on if he dare: Therefore, his Master being out of Town, he resolving to run the hazard, got into her Bed, and lay as snug as a Thief in a Mill, expecting her coming: and accordingly she came, undress'd,

dress'd, and went in, not knowing of his being there; for he had hid himself over Head and Ears. But no sooner she perceived an unexpected Bed-fellow, but she started, and was about to cry-out. At which, he said, Pray, Mistress, don't be frighted; 'tis only I. You! Sirrah! you impudent Rogue! *reply'd she*; How came you here? Indeed, *said he*, now I consider better, coming up in the dark, I have mistook my Chamber; and heartily begging your Pardon, I'll retire. No, *said she*; now you are here, I command you to stay till Morning, that I may make you sensible of your VWeakness; but be sure you presume not the like again, for fear I should acquaint your Master with it.

A downright Country Fellow, Son to a Farmer, having cast his Eyes upon another Farmer's Daughter, desired his Father to speak to her Father, that he might have her to Wife; (For it is the laudable Custome, in some Countries, for the Fathers to make up the Match between their Children, over a Pot of

126 England's merry Jest; Or,

Ale, Unfight, Unseen, as the Country Phrase is.) The Old Men agreed; and then came *Dick* to court his Mistress, and address'd himself to her in this Complementary manner. Well, *Joan*, Do'st thou know what my Vather said to thy Vather? No indeed, *Richard*, not I, *reply'd she*. Law yee now! *said he*; What a Vool was thy Vather, he did not tell thee? Why they have agreed, That you and I shall be buckled together, as Man and Wife. Alas! *Richard*, *reply'd she*, I believe you are but in Jest? Indeed and good troth, *said he*, I am in Earnest. I can't think it, *said she*; for I know you may have my Betters. That I know well enough, *reply'd down-right Dick*; but you shall serve turn, if you will: and without any more a-doe, I'll take thee, for better for worse, as thy Vather took thy Mother.

166.

A Man of a very squeamish Stomach, coming into a Cook's Shop, in *Smithfield*, to purchase a Dinner; but it being *Bartholomew-Fair-time*, and the People sweating at the Fire, and otherwise employ'd,

ploy'd, though he spoke several times, they minded him not: so that being overcome with the Steam of the Meat, and great Heat of the Fire, his Appetite went from him, and he was going out. The surly Cook, though before not at leisure, now clapt hold on his Shoulder, and charged him with Running away, and not Paying his Reckoning. The Man told him he had had nothing, but had filled his Belly with the Scent. Why, that's all one, *said the Cook*; a Belly-full's a Belly-full, though it be of Air; and you shall pay me for *that*, before you go, seeing you have troubled my Shop. The Cook insisting on this, it was agreed to be put to reference: And in the mean time, a Natural Fool coming by, it was agreed, on both Sides, that he should decide it. Let me see, Mr. Cook, *said the Fool*, a couple of empty Dishes? Which were brought. Now, *said the Fool to the other*, Let me see a Piece of Mony? Which he produced. Then he put the Mony between the Dishes, and gingling it about, cry'd, Do you hear it, Mr. Cook? Yes, *reply'd he*; but I had rather have it in my Pocket. No, *reply'd the Fool*; my

Award is, That you shall be satisfy'd with the Gingling of the Money, as the Man was with the Scent of the Meat.

167.

A Person of Quality, desirous to beg a Gentleman for a Fool, thereby to get his Estate, made great Interest at Court in that Affair. But the Gentleman being to have a Hearing, before it could be allowed, said, I wonder this Nobleman should be desirous to rob me and my Posterity, under pretence, That I am a Fool! Why, grant I am an Ideot; my Father that begot me was a Wise Man: And why then may not I, who am a Fool, beget wise Children? while this Nobleman, for ought I know, as Wise as he is, may have a Fool to his Son, as well as my Father. This reasonable Answer dash'd the Project; and the Nobleman had only a flap with a Fox's Tail, for his pains.

168. A

168.

A Fool coming to a Gentleman's House, and in the Tapestry-Hangings seeing the Picture of a Fool wrought in, he very fairly takes his Knife and cuts it out, and privately hid it. Soon after, running to the Master of the House, he said, Come, Harry, give me a Bottle of Sack, for saving your Hangings. How so, Jack! said the Gentleman; How have you sav'd 'em? Were they on fire? No, reply'd he; but by cutting out the Picture of the Fool that was in them: for had my Master seen it, he would have begg'd them, as he did me and my Estate.

169.

A Person who was a great Eater and Drinker, delighting in Gluttony and Riot, courting, one day, a brisk young Widow, among other complemental Expressions, said, Madam, I love you as well as I do my own Soul: By all that's Good! — Nay, Nay, said she, interrupting him, you need not swear it; for

by the course of Life you lead, it appears, you have no regard for its welfare: but if you had said, You lov'd me as well as you do your Body, there might have been something in that; seeing you are at so great Care and Charge, in cramming it every day.

A Country Fellow seeing the rude Rabble a pulling down a Bawdy-house, said, Ah! What a shame is this, to be suffered! For if they be thus permitted to go on, where, in a short time, shall we find a House standing in England?

A Quaker having sold a Man a Horse, whose Eyes, though they appeared tolerably fair, were, nevertheless, stone-blind: so the Jockey asked him, after he had pay'd down the Mony, what Faults he had. Do'st thou see any in him? says Yea and Nay. No, truly, reply'd the Jockey, not I. Then I'll assure you, said the Man of Conscience, upon the Word of a Friend, he sees none in thee.

thee. And so, with a Quibble, the Biter was bit.

172.

A down-right Country Fellow being troubled with a Standing-Ague, which put him to pain, he went to a Quack-Doctor, and made known his Grievance to him: VVho with a Cloth, and cold VVater, reduced the rebellious Member to a quiet temper; for which he gave him Half a Crown. But a while after, being in the same Predicament, and going for another Application, when instead of the Doctor, he found only his VVife at home; who being inform'd of his Grievance, took another way to cure him, with a more proper Remedy; the newness and strangeness of which so tickled his Conceit, that he offered her a Crown; but she having received her Satisfaction before, would take no Mony: so after many Scrapes and Cringes, he departed. But scarce was he got a Bow-shoot from the House, e're the Doctor, coming homeward, espy'd him, telling the Gentlemen in his Company what he was, and upon what account he had been

been at his House ; and, to please them, resolv'd to put a Joak upon Hob-nail : And well ! *says he*, honest Fellow ! How stands it now with you ? I see you have been at my House again. In good vaich ! Zur, *reply'd he*, it Stands not at all with me now ; for your VVife put it into a warm place, and lay'd it presently, and for never a Varthing. At th's the Doctor blush'd ; and the Gentlemen laugh'd till their Sides ak'd, to find the Doctor so finely dubb'd of the Forked-Order.

A Butcher being made Mayor of a small Corporation, his Wife fancy'd, that by reason of this new Honour, she should be highly reverenc'd by her Neighbours. So coming to Church the next Sunday just as the Creed began, the People all started up, it being usual to stand when it is reading; Mistress Mayorefs imagining it was done in respect to her, cry'd out, VVell, good People, I see now, you have some good Breeding, and know how to behave your selves before your Betters; for which you may expect

expect my Husband's Kindness, before he goes out of his Place.

174.

A Country Fellow, that had never heard Cathedral Musick, coming into the Choir, and there listning a while to the Organs, and the melodious Harmony of the Singing-Men, cry'd out, as if he had been transported, Lord! must I go to Heaven presently? Let me but go home first, and take leave of my Wife and Children, and then I'll go most willingly.

175.

A covetous fellow having an indifferent Fortune, would often brag, how bravely he would live, if he could encrease it to so much more: which, in process of time, happen'd according to his desire, with an Overplus; and then he lived more niggardly than before, hardly allowing himself Necessaries for the Support of Life or Decency: When one day, passing by One's Door with whom he was at enmity, the Man standing

ing there, said, Well, Neighbour, you grow Richer and Richer; and I pray God to send you as much morre as you have. Why that Wish from you, *said he*, when I know you hate me? That makes me wish so, *says the other*, that you may double your Covetousness, and starve your self.

176.

A raw Country Wench being newly come to an Inn to live, a Gentleman ordered her to grease his Boots against Morning; which she accordingly did, and set them in a Loft where Rats were used to haunt, and several Holes were soon eat in them: which she finding, early in the Morning ran into the Gentleman's Chamber, in a great fright, crying out, Oh, Sir! the saddest and strangest News you ever heard in your whole Life! What is that? *said he*, (thinking no less than that half the Country had been sunk by an Earthquake.) Why, *said she*, the Rats have eat your Boots, Man! And is that so strange! *replied he*; such Chances have often happen'd: but if thou had'st brought me
certain

certain News, That my Boots had eaten up the Rats; *that* had been worth the hearing.

177.

A rich Miser having made a poor Man wait on him for some Mony he promised him; at last began to banter him, saying, If he could persuade him to it, he should have it. Well, *said the other*, there is but one thing now, that I would persuade you to, and that I would do, if it was possible. And what is that? *said he*? Prithee, let me know it? Why truly, *reply'd he*, to persuade you to hang your self, that the World might have one Knave the less in it.

178.

A brisk Lads, asking a Gallant, How it came to be a Custom, That the Men always make the first Address to the Women? That does not always hold good, *replied he*: but however, the reason is, Because the Men always come when they are prepared; but the Women need no time for that, for they are ready at all times.

179. A

A Fellow being to be Hang'd with others, for Robbing a House, his VVife came after him to the Gallows. At which he grew very angry, saying, Get you home Hufwife, and wash your Dishes; there cannot be a Meeting in all the Country, but you must make one among them, with a Murrain t' yee!

VVhen Popery, of late, began to be rampant in *England*, some Priests being jolly at a Tavern near *Somerfet-House*, were disputing which was the Highest Saint. One said, *St. Dominick*; another, *St. Ignatius*: And so not agreeing, they resolved to put it to the Drawer, when he came up with the next Bottle. VVhich being done; Puh! said he; Can't you tell that? Every Fool that looks upon a Sign, can tell that. VVell! And which of them, say you, is the Highest? because you pretend to such Knowledge? says he who had stood up for *Ignatius*. Why, truly, reply'd the Drawer, *St. George*:

St. George : for he rides a Horse-back,
and all the rest go on Foot.

181.

A Man chiding his Younger Son, for being a Sluggard ; said, His Elder Brother had the good luck to be abroad early, before the Roads were much frequented, and had found a Bag of Mony. Ay, Father, *said he* ; but the Owner, who got up so early, and lost it, had better have been a bed, as I am.

182.

Two Country Fellows going along the Streets, gaping all the way at the Signs, at last they came to that of the *Mermaid* ; which put them to a stand, what to make of it. Oh ! *says he*, now I know what it is ; It is a Lady with a Fish in her Arse. Ay ! but how got it in ? *says the other*. It may be, *reply'd his Companion*, it might be, when she wash'd her self last in the Sea. This being learnedly discussed, one of them stepping forward, and seeing the Sign of the *Unicorn*, cryed, Lau yee ! Here is

a

138 England's merry Jester; Or,
a stranger thing! What is this call'd?
Why, you Fool! *said the other*; Don't
you know what that is? Why, 'tis a
Horse with a Barber's Pole in his Fore-
head?

183.

An ignorant Blockhead, complaining
for a great deal of Mony that was
Owing him; was asked, who was his
Debtor? reply'd, By one that had been
dead seven years: yet he was resolved
to sue him for it, for all that; for he
should not think to cheat him so. At
this the Hearers began to laugh, telling
him, the Dead are not sensible, nor ever
pay Debts; therefore it was but a folly
to expect it. Hey day! *says he*, that's
very pretty, indeed! Why, by this
means, when a Man has a mind to cheat
all the World, it is but to die, and they
may go look their Remedy.

184.

A Gentleman who took a great de-
light in Cock-fighting, sent his Bag of
Cocks, by an Irish Servant, to the Pir,
where

where a great Match was to be fought that day, charging him to keep them close till he came. But O Donnel being early there, forgetting his Orders, resolved to have a little Sport, to pass away the time, and so threw the three Cocks into the Pit; who being of the right strain, fell immediately together by the Ears, sometimes one to one, sometimes two upon one, and sometimes all in a huddle: whilst O Donnel leapt and skipt about them, and challenging any one to wage Two new Haltpenny Half-Croon Pieshes which beat. But so mortal was the Combat, that two were kill'd out-right, and the other mortally wounded. His Master hereupon coming, and seeing what had happen'd, in a great Rage, said, You confounded Dog! How came this about? By my Shalwashian, Dear Foy, if dee wot no mauk mush anger, I will tell dee, indeed: I did pot dem down upon de plaush here, and dey did faul out, as if dey had never seen one anoder before: De'ell tauk'em, if I did shее de like in all my life now, dat dey shou'd mauk such falling-out, and pot the kill upon one anoder, and yet be Broders, born and bred in one and de same Housh, is very strange,

140 England's merry Jester; Or,
strange, in good fait, merinks, truly, my
Dear Joy!

185.

An Irish Footman coming to a Nobleman's House, desired of the Porter, that he might speak with his Lord, for he had earnest Business with him. He told him he was at Dinner, and he must wait till his Lord had Din'd. But he told him again, That his Business was so Earnest, that he could not stay two Moments. The Porter not knowing of what Concern it might be, whisper'd his Lord in the Ear: Who left the Table, and came out to him. Says Teague to him, *Are you his Lord's Graush?* Yes (sayd he;) What is your Business? Only, *I wou'd pray dee to do me de favours, to do me de kindnes, to tell thy Man, Patrick, when he comes home, I wou'd fain speak with him, about earnest business.* And is this all (reply'd the Nobleman) that you have troubled me for? Yes, indeed, Joy, (said the other. Then (said the Nobleman) it will be requisite that I give you something in remembrance of it, and so order'd him to the Whipping-Post,

ping-Post; where he received a Reward at the Hand of the Common Officer, suitable to the Affront put upon so Noble a Gentleman.

186.

A French-man's Mony falling short, he was forced to buy a Fore-Quarter of Mutton with a pair of Horns on it, for his *Sunday's* Dinner: but it being an unusual Dish, he was non-pluss'd how to dress it; desiring the Butcher to give him a Receipt, how to order it. The which whilst he was doing, a Dog snatch'd it off the Block where he had laid it; and was got a pretty way, before the People cry'd out, French-man! French-man! You have lost your Sheep's-Head. At which, turning about, and not finding himself capable of overtaking the Thief, says, Let him go, Let him go, like a Fool as he is; for he'll be never the better for it, seeing I have the Receipt, and he knows not how to dress it.

187. A

Another of this Country, washing a parcel of raw Tripe at a Brook, which he intended to boyl for his Dinner ; and having done, and laid it behind him whil'st he was washing his Hands, a Dog came slyly and stole it away. Then *Monsieur* being angry thus to be disappointed of his Dinner, a while after seeing the Dog, resolved to catch him and chastize him ; but the Curr shunn'd him : Whereupon, to allure him into his Clutches, he pull'd out his Bauble and shaking it, cry'd, *Here Dog, My Tripe ; Mo Tripe, Dog.* But the Curr was too Old, to be caught with Chaff.

A Fellow whose Name was *Roach* reeling along by a River-side, and being lop-heavy, plung'd in, and lamentably cry'd out for help. But his Companion being as drunk as he, minded him not till he had scrabbled out of his own accord ; then asked him how he fared. Oh ! (said he that had been double dipp'd,

dipp'd,) You are a trusty Stick, indeed ;
I might have been drowned, for what
care you took of me. Truly, (says the
other,) I thought there was no Danger,
seeing you was but in your own Ele-
ment.

189.

A drunken Fellow, reeling home in
a frosty Night, when the Moon shone,
finding himself very sleepy, laid him
down on a Bank that descended sloap-
ing into a shallow Ditch of Water ; and
with tumbling and tossing, slid with his
Feet into it, and so lay snoring till Peo-
ple came by, and found him in that
posture : they jogg'd him hard, for a
time, e're they could wake him at all ;
and then, between half-'wake and 'wa-
king, he cry'd, Friends, Pray don't di-
sturb my rest at this time a night, but
go to your own Beds, for I can spare
you no room ; only lay a few more
Cloaths upon the Feet, and don't put
out the Candle.

A drunken Fellow being brought before a Country Justice, and upon the Interrogatories put to him, nothing could be got out of him, but that, *Your Worship's wondrous Wife*. So he was committed to the *Roundhouse* that Night, and ordered to be brought in the Morning, when he should be sober. Then said the Justice, How now ! Sirrah ! How came you to so Drunk, last Night ? Lay down your Ten Groats. Was I Drunk, (reply'd he ;) indeed I know nothing of it. It may be so, (said the Justice ;) you have slept since ; but then nothing could be got out of you, but, *Your Worships wondrous Wife*. Did I say so ? (said the Fellow.) Yes, (said the Justice ; here are several to witness it. It needs not, (reply'd the Fellow ;) I'll take your Worship's Word : and if I did say so, I'm sure I was Drunk ; and it is but reason, that I should pay, for putting such an Affront upon you, that you little deserve from any body's mouth ; therefore, give me Two-pence, and here is Three and Six-pence.

THE

THE
SECOND PART:

Containing
*Bulls, Blunders, Banters, Quib-
bles, Repartees, Wheedles,
and Pleasant Stories.*

With
*A Particular Character of a Wheedle,
and the Art of Wheedling.*

I

THree Men walking in the Fields,
about the beginning of Harvest-
time, cries one on a sudden,
Look yonder, *Tom!* there's a bunch of
Red Black-berries already! At which
he laugh'd, crying, It was a Bull. Why
so! (*says the third,*) Are not Black-
berries Red when they are Green?

H

2. A

2.

A Country Gentleman having a greater Estate, than Stock of Understanding, being upon hard Travel, the Horses tier'd, so that he was forced to put into an Inn : but not liking his Accommodations, and being withal in haste to see a Mistress he was going to be married to, the Bargain being already made by Proxy, he fell a swearing at his Coachman, for not driving on. Sir, *said the Coach-man*, the Horses are able to go no further. Why, hang 'em then, for founder'd Jades, leave 'em in the Inn, and drive on the Coach without 'em.

3.

Two Irish-men seeing a Great Officer in a Mazarine Blue Coat, Embroider'd with Silver ; says one to the other, *Dat is very pretty Garbment ; You wou'd pot great kindness upon any one dat wou'd be so shrewd as to put such a one upon my Back, just now. Ah !* (said the other,) *Dear Jey, if I cou'd get a Scarlet Scarf of dat colour, how very fine shou'd I then be, indeed now !*

4. A

4.

A Fellow having footed it much, till the Soles of his Shoes were about to leave the Upper-Leather, went to a Translator, and making some wry Faces, told him, He would give him Three-half-pence, which was all the Mony he had in the World. Give it me! (says *S. Hugh*;) I prithee, for what? Why, (reply'd the other,) only to do me the kindness to put two Heel-pieces on the Toes of my Shoes, to keep the Water out.

5.

A simple Fellow that had stole a Horse, being before a Judge, and having some odd Notions, buzz'd into his Head, he pray'd him to direct the Jury to find him guilty of Manslaughter, and not of Felony; for he had rather be Burnt in the Hand, than Hang'd.

6.

A Country Fellow who had been at London, and among some small matter

of Mony receiving a Guinea, and never having had one before, shew'd it to his Country-folks, as a Rarity : Who standing with their Mouths at half-cock, much admir'd its lustre, asking if there were any store of them at *London* ? Yes, in good troth, are they, *reply'd he* ; for a Man can't take Forty Shillings, but he is compell'd to take Seven or Eight of 'em, though he had rather have Silver.

7.

A Person having been at a Noble-man's House, where there was a great Feast ; a Neighbour, at his return, asked him what Chear he had there ? Oh ! very great store, *reply'd he* ; for there was four or five Second Courses brought up and plac'd on the Table.

8.

One coming in great haste, to give notice of the Death of a Man that dy'd suddenly ; and being asked, when he died ? Why truly, *said he*, even to Morrow Morning. Ay ! *said he* ; that's strange ! And when, pray, is he to be buried ?

buried? Why, Yesterday, *reply'd he*. Why, this is a strange Contradiction, and cannot be probable. In good sober sadness, says the Fellow, they told me so; I know no otherwise.

9.

A Fellow that newly came up to *London*, as an Apprentice, being sent for a Pound of Candles, and in his return, giving too large a step over the Kennel, stumbl'd, and all dirted them: Wherefore, having a cross Mistress, he went to a neighbouring Ale-house, and in a Pail of Water washed them. But then being wet, an arch Wagg advis'd him to hang them by the Fire to dry, whilst he tippl'd his Pint. But prating, and not minding them, the Fire being very hot, had quickly melted all the Tallow; when turning about and missing them, Well, *said he*, I have often heard that this *London* is a very thieving place, and now I find it true; for somebody has put his Arm down the Chimney, stole my Candles out of the top of it, and left only a bunch of Candle-Wicks in the room of them; and with

150 England's merry Jestier; Or,
this lamentable Story he went home to
accept of a broken Pate.

10.

An old Inn-keeper having married
a brisk young Woman in the Town, a
Spark that came to the Inn, had a great
mind to be tickling her Fancy; and by
Ogling, squeezing her Finger, and softly
treading on her Toe, made her under-
stand the Passion he had for her; so that
they soon came to a Parley, and he
found little difficulty to make her pro-
mise him to Surrender; but a conve-
nient Place was next to be assigned, for
the Signing and Exchanging Articles.
At length they appointed to meet, when
it was dark, in the House of Ease-ment.
But when they were in the mid'st of
their merry Conceit, the Old Man
came thundering at the Door. Who's
there? *says the Spark?* It is I, *reply'd he;*
Let me in; I'm in haste. You can't
come in, *says the Spark;* I am in before
you, and you must stay while I have
done. Why so? *says the Husband;* there
are two Holos. I know that, *says the*
Spark; but I am just got into one, and
the

the other is all befoul'd: With which flamm he sent him away, to ease himself upon the Dunghill, while the two Lovers went on with their Show.

Many People have wonder'd at the meaning of Throwing at Cocks on a *Shrove-Tuesday*; which, for your better Information, take as followeth. A good Woman, you must know, once upon a time, in her Husband's absence, had occasion for some secret Service to be done her by a Neighbour of hers; to which only the Cocks and Hens were privy: When Crowing-time came, the old Cock standing a tiptoe on his Dunghill, began his usual Crow; which the Woman's guilty Conscience interpreted thus, *My Master's a Cuckold, I now it. Do you so?* says she; I'll spoil your telling of Tales: Whereupon, catching him up, she was about to wring off his Neck; but thinking that too easie a Punishment for so great a Crime, she gave him to a parcel of rude Boys, to knock on the head with a Cat-stick: And so began the foolish Custome.

A Country Farmer, who drudg'd on only for the Payment of Rent, and a little Victuals ; yet to add to his Misery, was troubled with a turbulent, scolding Wife ; as one day he was at Plough, weary and sweating, his Horses were Jaded ; and crossing him, he fretted extremely ; and in his Passion, call'd out for the Devil to come immediately and fetch them away : When (as the Story goes) up came one of *Belzebub's* menial Servants, to fulfil his Request. At whose terrible Shape, and fierce Countenance, the poor Man being affrighted, intreated his absence ; for he had no business with him. Why, said *Mephistophiles*, did you not call me to take your Horses ? Ay, said he ; but I was only in jest. Oh ! reply'd the Devil, I don't use to be jested with, but will have something e're I go. Then, said the poor Man, pray go and take my Wife away. Then skipp'd the Infernal Messenger, and horsing her on his back, flew with her to his Master's Dungeon ; but there she kept such a Clamour, made such Cabals and Disturbances,

bances, that the poor Dog of a Devil was ordered, upon pain of being hung up by the heels in a smoaky Chimney for a Thousand Years, to carry her back again. But then the Husband would not take her, declaring she was bad before, but now she would be ten times worse. Why? said *Mephostophiles*; If you will do it, I will make you a famous Doctor; and prescribe what you will, it shall have success, if you see me at the Bed's-Head; but if at the Feet, the Party will die. This being agreed, the first he practis'd on, was an Usurer, whose Conscience started at the Thoughts of Another World: but the Devil, it seems, appearing at the Feet, he very sadly told him, He must die. Oh! said he, talk not to me of Death; use your best Endeavours to save me, and I'll give you a Hundred Pound. Upon this, he beckoned the Devil to come up to the Bed's Head: but he shook his Horns, as unwilling to do it: Whereupon, stepping to him, and whispering in his Ear, he said, Before George, if yee don't do it, I'll fetch my Wife to you. The terror of which Threat made him skip thither presently, and then he gave
his

154 England's merry Jester ; Or,
his Patient comfort under his Affliction
in a very short time.

13.

A *Quaker* that was a Barber, being
sued by a Parson for Tythes ; *Yea and Nay*
went to him, and demanded the reason,
why he troubled him, seeing he never
had any Dealings with him in his whole
Life. Why, *says the Parson*, it is for
Tythes. For Tythes ! *says the Quaker* ;
I prithee, Friend, upon what Account ?
Why, *said the Parson*, for Preaching in
the Church. Alas ! then, *reply'd the*
Quaker, I have nothing to do to pay
thee ; for I come not there, Oh ! but
you might, *says the Parson* ; for the
Doors are always open, at convenient
Times : And thereupon, told him, he
would be pay'd, seeing it was his due.
Yea and Nay hereupon, shook his Ears,
and making several wry Faces, depar-
ted, and immediately entred his Action,
it being in a Corporation Town, against
the Parson, for Forty Shillings. The
Parson, upon notice of this, came to
him, and very hotly demanded, why he
put such a Disgrace upon him ? and for
what

what he did owe him the Money? Truly, Friend, *reply'd the Quaker*, for Trimming. For Trimming! *said the Parson*; why, I was never Trimm'd by you in my Life. Oh! but thou might'st have come and been Trimm'd, if thou hadst pleas'd, for my Doors are always open, at convenient Times, as well as thine.

14.

In former days, an ambitious Gentlewoman, desirous to be a Lady, had indentured with her Husband on Articles of Marriage, That he should be Knighted. Which coming in, in discourse with another Gentlewoman, she ask'd how much that Honour would cost? Why, *reply'd the other*, about an Hundred Pounds. Why then, *said she*, mine shall never be at that Charge; for I'll Dubb him my self first, and so may you yours, and save the Money, if you be wife.

15.

A young Scholar, the Son of a Farmer, coming to visit his Parents, put out many

many Quibbles : which made the Country Fellows that came to see him, stare, and imagine he Conjur'd, and was calling up *Mephostophiles* to show Tricks. But one night, being at Supper, and a couple of Fowls set on the Table, to show his further Skill, he must needs be chopping Logick : Now, *said he*, Father, I'll show what Learning can do : You see these Two Fowls. Ay, *(said the Father, and so said the Mother.)* Well then, *continu'd he*, I'll show you how to make Three of them. That's brave ! *(says the Old Woman,)* and will quickly encrease our Store : But how *(continu'd she)* do you make that appear ? Oh ! *(said he,)* by Logick : As thus ; Here's One, is there not ? Yes, *(said she.)* Then taking up the other, Here's Two, *(said he :* Now, Two and One makes Three. Well *(said the Father,)* I think you have made it out pretty well ; we will have these Two, and you shall have the Third for your self : And so our Logician, for his Quibble's sake, was forc'd to go supperless to bed.

16.

An Old Woman having forgotten her Spectacles, and seeing some People crowding about a great Babboon, dress'd up in Antick Fashion, took it for the Indian Embassador, squeez'd in among them; and seeing some laugh, said, O fye! good People; Are you not ashamed to use Strangers at this rate? I protest, it is no wonder that you are us'd no better in their Country, when you thus flout a reverend Gentleman, because he is new come over, and can't understand our Language.

17.

A Constable whose Name was Nott, being upon the Watch, a jolly Fellow who had some little knowledge of him, was brought before him; and then demanding where the Constable was, the other strutting with his Staff in his hand, said I am he. You are Nott the Constable, *reply'd the other.* Then said Mr. Constable, Nott, I say, I am the Constable; and that you shall find, to
your

your sorrow, if you dare deny my Authority once more. You do not hear me, *reply'd the other*, deny your Authority; for I say, you are *Nurr* the Constable. Well, said the Regent of the Nocturnal Band of Bill-men, Take him to the Counter. And the next Morning, it being *canvass'd* before a Justice, and the Constable's Ignorance appearing, in not knowing his own Name, when he heard it; he was order'd to pay the Fees; and give the Party he had committed a Treat of a Guinea, to be Friends with him.

A lusty Wench, coming out of the Country, and living with the Beadle of the Parish, an old Watchman made Love to her: who having stay'd a long time, without ever being asked the Question; and fearing, if she miss'd this Opportunity, never to meet with one so favourable again, clapt up the Bargain, and desired a Neighbour who was going into the Country, to give that little Kindred she had there, an Account of the good Luck she had met with at London, in so speedily

speedily altering her Condition. The Man, upon his arrival, was received with such Entertainment as their poor Abilities could afford, and all flock'd about him to hear the News, demanding in what Capacity this Husband of their Kinswoman's was. Oh! said he, He is a very reverend Person, a careful One, that looks to the City; and is no less dignify'd, than being One of the Elders that sits in the Gate. All rejoiced at this, concluding him no less than an Alderman, or a Colonel of the Train'd Bands: So leaving them thus deceived, several of them prepared their best Equipage, and came up to congratulate Dorothy's Success, in hopes of Rewards and Favours for former Kindness: But when they found she had yoked with a Nocturnal Bill-man, whose highest Income was but Forty Shillings a Quarter, they sneak'd home again, without so much as a *How d'yea, Cousin?*

19.

A Country Fellow having been to visit the University at Oxford, and being asked what strange Things he had seen there:

160 England's merry Jester ; Or,
there ? Oh ! *said he*, many strange
Things ; but one above the rest most ad-
mirable. What's that ? *said the other*.
Oh ! *said he*, I saw, in one of the Col-
leges, a Dog in a Wheel, Spinning of
Roast-meat.

20.

Ben. Johnson, one day, passing over
Covent-Garden, a lame Beggar followed
him, begging hard for an Alms. How
now, Fellow ! says *Ben.* by what Au-
thority do you beg here ? disturbing
People with your Clamours, as they
pass along on their lawful Occasions ?
Oh, Sir ! *reply'd he*, I have lost the Use
of my Limbs in the Service, and have
a License for it. Ha ! (*says Ben.*) Is it
so ? — Well, Friend, Lice, I believe
you have ; but I'm sure, little or no
sense, to beg Mony of a Poet, as Wit is
rated in this Age.

21.

Some Spaniards being at Sea in a
Storm, one of them vowed to offer a
Wax Tapour at the Shrine of *St. Agatha*,
(to

(to whom they attribute a Power over Winds and Tempests) as big as the Main-Mast, if she would bring him safe to Land. Ay ! says his Companion, but where would you get Money to buy Wax ? or a Mold big enough to make it in ? Puh ! *reply'd he* ; never trouble your Head for that ; for though I promise such a one now, yet when I get ashore, one of Twelve in the Pound shall serve her turn.

22.

A rambling Foot-man that had been to see some of his quondam Companions in the City, reeling home late, was brought before an Intelligible Constable, who demanded who he belong'd to ? He, with some stuttering, told him, to one Mr. Baxter. Oh ! *reply'd the Man of Night-Rule*, I understand you now ! You say you are Page of the Back-Stairs : Well, well, go about your Business ; I must not stop such worthy Men as you, who are Officers at Court ; And he dismiss him accordingly.

Two Justices, in a former Reign, having gotten a Fellow between them, upon Examination for a trivial Matter, made a mighty Purther, urging him to go on with his Confession. Why truly, my Masters, *said he*, I find my self between Hawk and Buzzard, and can remember no more at this time, and so pray'd to be dismiss.

24.

A Woman being told by an arch Wagg, of whom she enquired for News, That there was an Order made, That every painful, laborious Man, that had been Cuckolded Three times, should have a Pension allow'd by the Society of Cuckold-makers in London. Will they so, *said she*? why, that will be a great help to us; for my poor Husband may justly claim Ten Pensions from I; *said she*. And you who are Officers in Court, will find him accordingly

25. A

A needy Fellow walking in the Fields and musing how to get Mony, espying in a Tuft of Grass a heap of *Album Graecum*, (as the Learned call it,) or in plain English, *White Dog-turd*, he took it up, and cast in his Mind, how he might make some Advantage of it, to supply his craving Necessities. And finding any thing, in a manner, that had but a hard Name, went off at London, among some sort of People, he Christen'd it *Torvine*; and putting it up in Papers very decently, feigning an Outlandish Tone, went about the Streets, crying, *Who buy my Torvine, to make you Ready-witted, and speak Truth presently.* Among others, a Yorkshire Man, that was to give Evidence in Law-Matter, and having but a bad Memory, thinking by this means to be made an Orator, purchased a Paper of a Shilling Price, with large Directions how to take it; and being greedy of Knowledge, fell to nibbling of it immediately, and then to spattering and spawling, crying out, It was a Tyke's Turd. Why, Lau yee there!

164 England's merry Jester; Or,
there! *said the other, laughing*; Did I not
tell you, it would make you Ready-
witted, and speak Truth presently.

26.

A Man that had Robb'd a House, being
Taken and Condemned at *Paris*, was
carried a Mile out of that City to be
Hang'd; but could not, all the way
he went, forbear laughing at a merry
Conceit that came into his Head. His
Father-Confessor chid him for it, ex-
horting him to be serious, and urged
him to give him the Reason of that ill-
tim'd Mirth. He told him, He should
know the Occasion of it, before he dy'd:
And so coming to the fatal Place, when
he was mounted on the Ladder, he de-
sired the People to sing a *Salvo Regina*;
that is, a Hymn to the Virgin Mary.
Which when they had ended; Now,
Father, *said he*, you have often told me of
the Miracles done by St. *Francis*, St. *Ignatius*,
and Others; and the Cause why
I laughed, was, To think I should do as
great a one as any of them, before I
die. What's that? *said the Fryer*. Why,
even, *reply'd he*, to make a company
of

Court, City and Country Jest. 165
of Cuckows sing in the Middle' of
Winter.

27.

A romancing Fellow, telling a Story,
That in the *Cham* of *Tartary's* Court, he
saw a Man of a mighty Stature eat a
Load of Hay, all but the Truss-bands,
for a Wager. That's a small matter,
said another, resolving to Out-lye him,
though likely to be very true; for I had
an Uncle, that was a Woodman, who
would make nothing to eat up a Load
of Logs for his Breakfast, and a Load of
Bayins-bands for his Dinner; but they
fill'd him so, he seldome could eat any
Supper.

28.

A true Toper, that liv'd at the Sign
of the *Three Cups*, having a Letter di-
rected to him by a Friend, the Super-
scription was, *Three Hundred Cupps*; the
next time he met him, he asked him
how he came to blunder so, by a false
Direction? Oh! *reply'd he*, I knew
well enough what I did; for I could
never

166 England's merry Jester; Or,
never find but you loved Cups very well,
and therefore resolved not to stint you in
your number.

29.

A Man being very earnest to know
of his Wife, how many of the Ten Chil-
dren he had, were his own: But she
put him off, sometimes with Flammis,
and at other times with Protestations;
till at last he, impatient of Delay, vow'd
he would go to the Cunning-man to be
resolved, if she made any further refusal.
This made the good Woman start, and
intreat him not to do it; for such unlaw-
ful Enterprizes might provoke God to
take them from him. Well, *said he*,
to prevent it, tell me truly. Indeed,
said she, I will: This, and this, and so
going on to the number Nine, are
yours. And whose is the other? *said he*.
Nay, Husband, pray don't ask me that?
Well, *said he*, to save you a Scruple of
Conscience, and to prove my self an
honest Man, the Parson shall have this
for Tythe; for I am satisfied he has a
Right to it.

30. Some

Some quibbling Experiments being pushed about among jovial Companions, says one, What think you of this Four-square House, now it is likely to rain, if I should so order it, that the Rain should fall but on one side of it. Why, said another, it cannot be, unless you Conjure, and have Power over the Elements. Yes, said he; you shall see the Experience of it, for a two Bottles Wager. Done! says one, and Done! says the other. So staying a little while, it began to rain very plentifully. Now, said one, you have lost. No, said the other, I have not: And thus I demonstrate it, viz, What you see now, is only the Out-side of the House on which the Rain falls, but the In-side is dry; and if you make me any more than the Out-side and the In-side of a thing, then I yield my Wager lost.

31.

A Fellow that had got a shrewd Wife, seeing a Man turmoil'd with an unruly Horse, cry'd out, Friend ! Friend ! if you would tame him, Marry him, and I'll warrant you that will do it.

32.

An Old Man that was very deaf, coming to Market to sell a Cow, a Sharper who observ'd his Infirmary, was very diligent in hearkening who cheapen'd ; and following one of the Chapmen into an Ale-house, who would not come up to the Price, said, Come, Friend, my Father, yonder, (pointing to him thorough the Window,) is willing to take your Mony ; pay it to me, and the Cow shall be deliver'd : so down the Mony was laid. The Sharper thereupon steps to the Old Man, and strikes him earnest for his Cow, at his own Price ; but that he must help his Servant to drive her to his Yard, at the lower-end of the Town. To this he consented ; and then calling out him that had bought her really, away went

went the Old Man with him, whil't
the Sharper rubb'd off with the Mony,
and left them to scuffle it out at Law;
till at length, finding themselves bub-
bled and cheated, they ended the Con-
troversie with a Woodcock-Feast.

33.

A Plaisterer and his Boy being em-
ploy'd to Whiten a House by the Day,
were so tedious, that tiring the Patience
of the Owner, he one day asked the
Boy, in his Master's absence, when he
thought they would have done? Who
reply'd very bluntly, That his Master
was gone to look for another Jobb; and
if he found one, they should make an
end of it that Week: but I believe,
continu'd he, if he misses of any other
Work, it will be the End of the next
Week before we shall have finish'd
this.

34.

A Gentleman requiring a Painter to
draw him the Prospect of a fine House,
with a Porter standing at the Gate with
I a Staff

170 England's merry Jester ; Or,
a Staff in his Hand ; he did it all well,
to content, but the Porter ; which part
of his Instructions he forgot, and was
chid for. Why, Sir, *said he*, are you
so angry ? the Butler has only invited
him into the Cellar, to drink a Glass of
Wine ! I'll undertake for him, he shall
be at the Gate in an hours time : And
so drew him in his proper place.

35.

An old rich Citizen, intending to
keep himself very warm, resolved to
double the Cloth of a Suit he made ;
that is, to Line the Coat with the same ;
as likewise the Breeches : but in the lat-
ter, next his Skin, a Dimmoty Lining
was plac'd. The conscious Taylor
thought therefore, in such a case, any
Cloth would save, and therefore re-
solved to save that Remnant : in the
room of which, he put in an old paint-
ed Cloth that had been used in a Play at
Bartholomew-Fair. When one day, the
Party going to Air himself, as he was step-
ping over a Stile, a Snag happen'd to tear
his Breeches ; and going to look upon
the Rent, he espy'd two painted De-
vil

vils threatening, in horrid Shapes, with Muck-Forks in their Hands; which made him haste to pull them off; and looking further, found other Devils, tormenting *Dives* in Flames. Starting at this, he ran with them under his Arm to the Taylor, upbraiding him for cheating him; but most of all, that he had made him carry Hell-Fire in his Breeches. Mr. Snipp, upon this, protested, with up-lifted Hands and Eyes, that he knew nothing of it! and wish'd he might go to Hell, to find the Cloth thus chang'd, if he did! (craftily meaning that under the Shop-board.)

36.

A brisk young Sempstress having out-witted many an airy Fop, and sparkish Gallant, was, at last, out-witted herself, in this manner: A Town-Shift, in very good Habit, coming into her Shop, cheapen'd and bargain'd for a considerable parcel of Linnen: and then pausing — said, Oh! I had like to have forgot one thing; I want a Shirt of the largest make; it is not for my self, but for one as big agen. She shewed him

172 **England's merry Jester ; Or,**
thereupon several ; but he complained
they were too strait : and then she
shewed him another ; which he seemed
to like, saying , Pray, Madam, do me
the favour to let me see you strip
it on over your Cloaths. The which,
to please and humour so good a Custo-
mer, she did. Then he turning her
about, to see how it fate, fasten'd pri-
vately the hinder Lappets, with two
large Pins, thorough her Cloaths, to the
hinder part of her Smock ; then snatch-
ing the Linnen he had bargain'd for,
off the Counter, out he ran. She there-
upon followed him, crying, Stop him !
Stop him ! and hastily going to pull the
Shirt over her Ears, as ashamed to pur-
sue him in such a Garment, she with it
drew up all her Cloaths, and exposed
her naked Posteriors to the Publick,
and so ran on, still pulling to get off the
Shirt ; whil'st some good Matrons, who
supposed her to be Mad, stopped her,
sensible that she ought to be cover'd be-
hind : Which gave the Sharper an op-
portunity to rub cleverly off with his
Booty.

37.

A Citizen, not much acquainted with Horse-Flesh, seeing a very fine Mare manag'd in her Paces, commended her highly : but, said he, her often breeding will spoil her ; therefore, it were better they could clap a pair of Stones between her Legs, and make her a Gelding.

38.

A Citizen having married a very young Girl, and of as young an Understanding, being invited to a Christ'ning, she took the Child in her Arms, and fell to dandling it, the better to be experienc'd, when one she long'd for came to town : And how old is this Child ? *says she to the Nurse.* Why truly, *reply'd the Nurse,* but Five Days. Nay, *said she,* I know by my little Spor, it must be Nine Days old, or it could not see. At this the Nurse laugh'd, and told her, she would be better inform'd, when she came to Years of Discretion.

THE NEW ART OF Wheedling.

THE Word WHEEDLE, is of
so late an Edition, that it is to be
found in no Dictionary but the Canting
one; and imports, a subtle Insinuation
into the Nature, Humours and Inclina-
tions of such as we converse with;
working upon them so effectually, that
we possess them with a Belief, that all
our Actions and Services tend to their
Pleasure and Profit: Whereas it is but
seemingly so, that we may work on
them our Ends, and real Advantage.
Therefore, that People may the better
see thorough this Veil of Hypocrisy,
I shall lay open the slye Methods, the
subtle

subtle *Wheedler* takes to bring about his Purposes.

The *Practised Wheedle*, as *Juvenal* says of such Men in his time, will conform to all sorts of Company : Do you laugh ; they will endeavour to laugh louder : If you are sad and pensive, and prove to weep, they will deluge themselves in *Crocadilian Tears* : If you complain of Cold ; they Shiver : and if, in the next breath, you say the Weather's Warm, they'll strait begin to Unbutton, and cry, they are swelter'd with Heat.

Ridens? Majore cecubino

*Concucitur : flet, si Lachrynas conspexit Amici,
Neo dolet, igniculum Bramæ si tempore poscas,
Accipit Endromidem, si dixeris, festuo, sudat.*

Juven. Sat. 4.

The *Wheedle* will be sure never wholly to disapprove what any one says, on whom he has a Design : But if he says any thing never so improbable, or impossible, if he makes not an Apology for it, he will not wholly contradict it, but even his Negative ; like *Janus*, shall bear a double Face ; and without feeling any of your Passions, or understanding

176 England's merry Jester; Or,
any of your Actions, he shall appear
more concerned for you than you are
for your selves; and fail not to compose
and conform his Countenance and Ge-
stures exactly with yours; and *Proteus*
like, turn himself into any shape of Con-
versation that may prove profitable or
advantageous to him. It is not every
one can make a compleat *Wheedle*; for
it requires many Qualifications; as, some
Learning, good Natural Parts, and a
Comely Body; also, a practis'd Reser-
vation, Dissimulation, Flattery, bridl'd
or pretended Patience, Humility, Civi-
lity, Plausibility, Affability; a seeming
Honesty, though none in the bottom:
So that Men are cheated by them, be-
fore their Eyes; and persuaded, by cun-
ning Insinuations, out of their Reasons,
to believe these Flatterers before their
own Senses; who, with the Poet, thus
whisper to them:

— *Da Justum, Sanctumq; videri:
Noctem peccatis, & Fraudibus: objece Nubem.*

“Let me seem Just and Holy: Let the

“Night

“O'er-cast my Frauds: Let Clouds

“hide them from sight.

Vas

And

And now for his Qualifications. And the First of these are (as is said) Learning or Languages acquired by Travel: For though he may often meet with Bubbles and Blockheads, he may sometimes, for all his Cunning, catch a Tartar, meet with such as will find him out to be only a silly Pretender to what he professes, and by which he has gained so much Applause; and if he loses his Credit, his Company falls off, and he is left to shift, till in a place that he is not known, he can fasten upon others.

The next, is, good Natural Parts; a fluent way of Discoursing, without Hesitation or Stammering, having all his Words prompt and ready, apt to turn and wind; and when an Ambiguity is deliver'd, to turn it to the best advantage; and so if he finds, at first, he trips or mistakes, he may, upon second thoughts, rectifie his Understanding.

Thirdly, A Handsome, Proportion'd Body, and a winning Presence and Behaviour, which wins and attracts Affection, if suited with a genteel Garb, especially on the Female Sex, on whom they chiefly employ their Talent; so that

that by ingratiating into their Favour, they have many of them shared Estates with the Husband, and liv'd splendidly, without any other Stock than their Tongues, &c.

These Qualifications being had, the next thing they do, is to haunt the Coffee-Houses, Taverns, Gaming-Ordinaries, and such like Places, to observe, by the Behaviour and Demeanour of the Party, what Stock of Understanding he has; but more especially, what Stock of Money or Supplies belonging to him; and then he fixes the first Opportunity he can take hold of, on a Bottle of Wine, or a small Collation; which Generosity he undeniably accepts of; and then, by humouring in all his pretty Fancies, make him believe he is the most accomplished Gentleman he ever met with in the days of his born; and from that moment, they contract an intimate familiarity, and are seldom asunder, till such time as the Gallant's Exchequer, by reason of the profuse Extravagancy, begins to be at low Ebb; and then, like a Swallow, he goes off with a canting Complement, to a warmer Sun. When
he.

he sees an Opportunity, he borrows, with Promises and Protestations of Payment, when his Estate, which he pretends is very large, after the Death of his Father, comes into Hands: And if his new *Amicus* is not free in that, then he gets himself Arrested by some of his Companions; and so sending for his Friend, tells him a lamentable Story, That he had the misfortune to be obliged for a young Gentlewoman, to a Taylor, for Twenty Pounds; and that she being gone down to her Relations, to fetch up the Mony, her Creditor being possess'd by one whom she rivals in Beauty and Amours, That she has withdrawn her self, on purpose to cheat him, he has Arrested him at a nick of time when he is out of Mony, but shall receive an Hundred Pounds in four days.

The kind, good natur'd Gentleman, upon this, opens his Purse; or if he be unfurnished, borrows of his wealthy Friends, to supply his wheedling One; and by this means he supports his Pleasure and Riot: These kind of Cattle being like *Pharaoh's* lean Kine, the Devourers of all the Young Sparks that fall in their course to be so unfortunate as to be acquainted with them. So

So briefly to conclude, I shall end in
these Lines of a witty Author :

*When the young Fop comes fluttering up to
Town*

*From an indulgent Mother, up and down
He rambles, till at last he is espy'd
By some sharp Knave, and is by him decoy'd
Into a Snare, by's smooth, deluding Tongue,
Who, Syren like, does lead him, lull'd along
In a fond waking Dream, till he, at last,
Too late for Rescue, is on Quick-sands cast ;
There sadly sees how he has been deceiv'd ;
And comfortless, is of his Friends bereav'd ;
Left in a Goal, at leisure to repent,
And there converse with Want and Dis-
content :*

*The Wheedle then him, as Contagion, flies,
And there, without some true Friend's help,
he lies.*

In Misery, perhaps, until he dies.

F I N I S.



